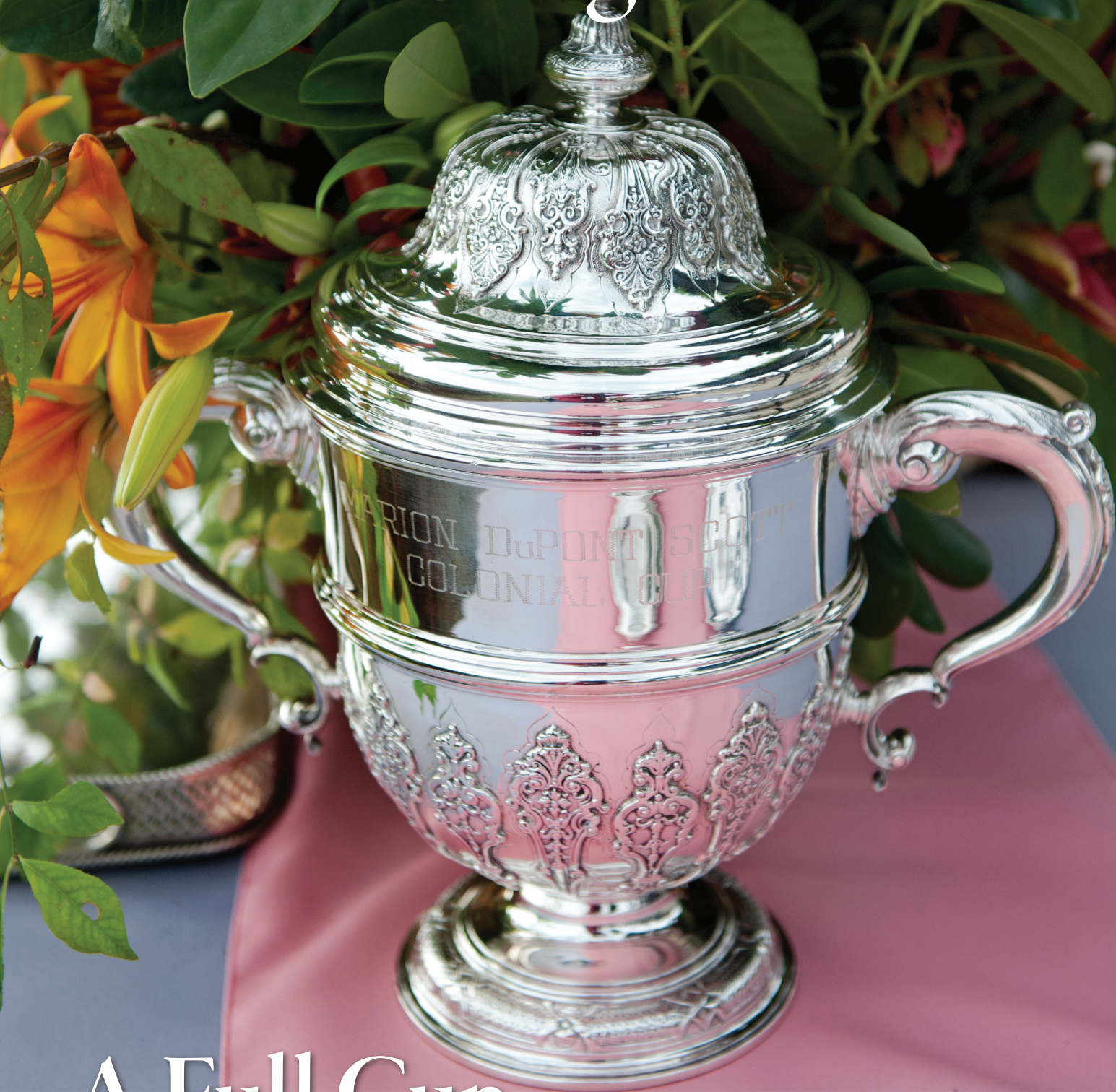


Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 32, Issue 10
NOVEMBER 2024



A Full Cup

Classic jump race returns to South Carolina

A Banner Month for Country Life & Merryland

Something for Everyone



Jim McCue

Country Life's Divining Rod starts off the 39th Maryland Million for us with daughter NEXT GIRL's big win in the \$50,000 Turf Distaff Starter H. Bred by Country Life and the Fleet n Fancy LLC.



Jerry Dzierwinski

Country Life veteran Friesan Fire sires SHKHARA FIRE, who earned a gritty last-to-first win in the \$100,000 Maryland Million Lassie for breeder/owners Barak Farm & Dino's Thoroughbreds LLC.



Michael Burns Photography

Country Life stalwart Mosler sires 2-year-old THUNDERING, who breaks maiden in second start in Woodbine's \$150,000 Display Stakes. Foaled at Country Life for owner Dastur Racing.



Ellen B. Pons

Country Life purchases \$70,000 Nyquist filly at Midlantic Fall Yearling Sales, and sells 10 shares at \$7,000 overnight. Pictured upon arrival at Merryland.



Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
www.countrylifefarm.com
Office 410-879-1952 • Josh Pons 443-807-0644
Mike Pons 410-459-8517 • Christy Holden 410-808-1325



MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB
AT LAUREL PARK

CAPITOL MEET



NOVEMBER 9 / 23 / 30

→ FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT LAURELPARK.COM

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Back to the Future at Colonial Cup

In 1970, Springdale Racecourse hosted a \$100,000 international steeplechase and created a major stop on the American calendar that lasted more than 40 years. Shelved since 2016, the autumn fixture returns this month. By Joe Clancy. Page 24

Back-to-back at the top of fall yearling sale

Star broodmare How My Heart Works adds to her story with a second consecutive sales-topper at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's downsized yearling sale. By Joe Clancy. Page 34

The cost of aftercare

From shoes to surgery, re-training to rescue, the costs of Thoroughbred aftercare add up. Retiring a sound horse might be the most important piece of the puzzle. By Kristen Kovatch Bentley. Page 42

Trackside Parx: Stars show up for Grade 1 races

Division leader Thorpedo Anna finds room in time to win Cotillion Stakes on the way to the Breeders' Cup and a potential championship. Preakness winner Seize the Grey runs away with Pennsylvania Derby. By Paul Halloran. Page 46

Trackside Laurel: Pascaline takes long road to stakes

Bred in West Virginia, prepped in Ireland, purchased in England, 2-year-old colt Pascaline shines in stakes win for West Point Thoroughbreds and partners. By Joe Clancy. Page 54

Trackside Delaware Park: Bentleys ride to top

Paced by stakes horses Late Frost and Caprice, Greg and Caroline Bentley's Runnymore Racing leads owners' standings at 2024 meet. By Ali Çetinok. Page 58

On our cover: South Carolina's Colonial Cup returns to the steeplechase circuit on traditional November weekend. *Photo by Tod Marks*

— Entries —

Post Time 6

The Starting Gate 8

Next Chapters 18
Pet Me Pet Me

From the Editor 22

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 63

New Jersey newsletter 69

North Carolina newsletter 73

Pennsylvania newsletter 75

South Carolina newsletter 79

Virginia newsletter 81

West Virginia newsletter 83

— Evening Stables —

Classifieds 85

Looking Back 86

Past Time 88

COMING TO MARYLAND

Highest booking stallion in PA in 2024– his first year at stud

WARRENT

Graded Stakes-Winning Millionaire
And the only son of **CONSTITUTION** at stud in the region



Won G3 Oklahoma Derby

Second by a head in **G1 Santa Anita H**
(earning a 104 Beyer)

WON OR PLACED IN 9 ADDITIONAL STAKES, INCLUDING:

**G2 Brooklyn S, G3 West Virginia Derby,
G3 Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H, G3 Louisiana S.**

On the board in 17 of 19 starts in three seasons.

By millionaire and leading sire **CONSTITUTION (TAPIT)**,
already sire of leading freshman sire **TIZ THE LAW**.

\$4,500 LFSN

Inquiries to Bob Hutt 732-241-6606
or Joerg Hoffmann 732-766-4507



Constitution–Whisper Number, by First Samurai

Darlington, Maryland



MARYLAND-BRED / MARYLAND-SIRED STAKES SCHEDULE

Through December 2024

December 7

\$100,000 MD JUVENILE 2YO, 7 furlongs

\$100,000 MD JUVENILE FILLY CHAMPIONSHIP
2YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

December 21

\$75,000 HOWARD & SONDRAL BENDER MEMORIAL
3YO & Up, 7 furlongs

\$75,000 POLITELY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs

Find it on
MarylandThoroughbred.com

Maryland-Breds

Weekly Entries & Results

Alpha—by Horse, by Breeder, by Stallion

Maryland Sires

CURRENT ACTIVE SIRES

Today's Entries • Yesterday's Results
Runners by Year Listings

On our home page, the top pull-down menu for Stallions, you can find Progeny Entries/Results for active Maryland sires. Listed are all of the day's entries, the previous day's results, and a statistics button that allows you to sort by stallion name to view results by year (2024-2021). These are for current active stallions eligible for the Maryland Fund program.

We also have a feature under the MD Breds tab that lists a week's worth of entries/results of Maryland-bred runners.

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 32, Issue 10

321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136

(410) 252-2100 x116

Fax (888) 616-9797

MidAtlanticTB.com

Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler
breightler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy
editor@marylandthoroughbred.com
410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler
cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editorial assistant: Lydia Williams
lwilliams@marylandthoroughbred.com

Communications manager: Ali Çetinok
acetinok@marylandthoroughbred.com

Contributors:

Sean Clancy sean@marylandthoroughbred.com

Lexi Danielson lexi@marylandthoroughbred.com

Tom Law tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services: Emily Stakem
emily@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward
Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly with the exception of July by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (888) 616-9797. Subscription rate \$36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. \$91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred, 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: \$5 current issue, plus \$4 postage and handling.

\$15 Stallion Directory (December issue);

\$15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus \$5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of participating breeder associations in the region.

Printed by The Lane Press, Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

Copyright 2024

Maryland
Horse Breeders
Association Inc.



Pennsylvania's Top Stallions

ON THE MOVE



EASTWOOD

2023 LEADING PA STALLION

- By average earnings per runner, \$44,623
- By % black-type horses, 27.3%
- By % winners/starters, 82%

\$2,000 LFSN

UPTOWNCHARLYBROWN

SWEPT the 2023 PA-BRED AWARDS WITH HIGHEST PAYOUT FOR:

- STALLION AWARDS, \$236,389
- BREEDER AWARDS, \$632,476
a NEW RECORD set by Uptowncharlybrown Stud
- BREEDER & STALLION AWARDS, \$868,865
a NEW RECORD set by Uptowncharlybrown Stud

\$3,000 LFSN



FOLLOW the WINNERS to

Mountain Springs Farm

Palmyra, PA

Call Joerg Hoffmann 732-766-4507 or Bob Hutt 732-241-6606 for early booking advantages!

Post Time

TIME TO GO. Heavy favorite and eventual winner Thorpedo Anna (center) and jockey Brian Hernandez look for room coming off the turn in the Grade 1 Cotillion Stakes at Parx Racing in September. The star 3-year-old filly got out in time to catch Gun Song (blinkers) in the final yards.

Lori Napp





— The Starting Gate —

Say It Again

“I’ve been finishing second all day.”

*Buyer Mike Trombetta, after landing Hip 280
late in the sale for Country Life Farm*

“The over/under is three.”

*Van-company owner Andy Simoff, on how many
yearlings ship to the wrong location after the sale*

“Why don’t you switch sticks and start
buying them if they’re so cheap?”

Fasig-Tipton’s Max Hodge, to a would-be buyer at the sale

“You lost money, but at least you can’t lose any more money.”

Breeder/consignor David Hayden, finding a silver lining at the sale

“He hit everything but the pace car.”

*West Point Thoroughbreds’ Tom Bellhouse, about September stakes
winner Pascaline’s troubled debut win at Colonial Downs in August*

“I think I spend more on vets than some
countries spend on their national debts.”

Owner/breeder Jim Miller, on the costs of doing business

“I was mesmerized and hooked.”

*Owner Chuck Zacney, on his first trip
to a Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale in 2004*

“Michael’s for lunch, Dick’s Sporting Goods, walking
around for a while. I basically didn’t catch a flight
tonight home just to buy him. It worked out.”

*David Scanlon, on how he spent his day
at Timonium before buying Hip 206*

“We’re going to flip for it.”

*Owner David Hughes, holding a two-headed coin at the sale,
on how he chooses between trainers Hammy Smith and Jerry Robb*

Names of the Month

Compiled by Lexi Danielson

Electric Eel. The 3-year-old New-Jersey bred colt is by Sea Wizard out of the Cable Boy mare She’s Hot Wired. Owned by Shore Point Stable, he won by a neck at Monmouth in August.

U Know When U Know.

Five Hellions Farm’s 2-year-old filly is by Cupid out of the Forest Wildcat mare Kiss in the Forest. She won her debut at Laurel Park in September.

Our Uptown Girl.

The Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Uptowncharlybrown out of Fringe Benefits has won seven times in 30 starts over four seasons, her most recent at Penn National for Hardesty Stables.

Crabcakes N Beer and Crabs N Beer.

These half-brothers, out of the mare Get’m Up Pronto, are owned by Charles Blanford (he shares ownership of Crabcakes N Beer with Teresa Haupt). Crabcakes N Beer is sired by Good Samaritan; older brother, multiple stakes-placed Crabs N Beer, calls Blofeld his father.

— The Starting Gate —

No three-peat, but a big mate for How My Heart Works

Broodmare How My Heart Works made history by topping the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale two years in a row with a \$205,000 Nyquist colt in 2023 and a \$165,000 City of Light filly this year.

Can she make it three? No. The now 12-year-old daughter of Not For Love did not have a foal in 2024 – by design.

“Her last foal was moderately small, she’d had several in a row, she was foaling a little bit later every year and maybe nature was telling me to back off,” Bowman said. “It also gave me an opportunity to have a quality mare available early in the year. That made it easier to talk to people in Kentucky about a season. She was open, but not barren, and ready to breed.”

Those practical factors lined up with a personal one as Bowman’s wife Chris, like much of racing, was taken with the story of 2023 Horse of the Year and new stallion Cody’s Wish. The earner of \$3.1 million was named for a bond he shared with Cody Dorman. Born with Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome, Dorman used a wheelchair and communicated with a tablet. He met the horse, then a foal, as part of a Make-A-Wish Foundation visit to Gainsborough Farm in 2018. Dorman and his family attended several of the horse’s races including a victory at the Breeders’ Cup Nov. 4,

2023. Dorman, 17, died the next day while traveling home to Kentucky.

“My wife, who rarely gets involved with these kinds of decisions, was overwhelmed with the story of Cody’s Wish and she also knew if we were ever going to be able to breed to that kind of a stallion prospect it would be now,” said Tom Bowman. “We turned a fair amount of earnings back into a stud fee but if you’re going to do it, why wouldn’t you do it with this mare? Her name is How My Heart Works, Chris was overwhelmed by this story and sometimes you throw all the stuff out the window and just say, ‘I’m going to follow my heart.’ ”



The Nyquist colt out of How My Heart Works topped last year’s Midlantic yearling sale at \$205,000.

Maybe you’ll see the yearling at Timonium in 2026.

– Joe Clancy

Hats for Sale

In sort of a tradition, we tried to log some of the hats in action at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s yearling sale Oct. 1. General observation: More Baltimore Orioles hats than ever, though their trip to the playoffs ended the next day.

Some of the others spotted around the pavilion and barns: University of Tennessee, Dale Capuano Stable, Pure Lure Reel Fishing Gear (that was actually a shirt), Chanceland Farm, The Saratoga Special, Equine Etiquette,

Philadelphia Phillies, Straight Line Equine Sales, The Masters, Northview Stallion Station, Simoff Horse Transportation, Keeneland, 1/ST Racing, Super Dad, Philadelphia Eagles, Haskell Stakes, Breeders’ Cup, Green Spring Valley Hounds Pony Camp, jockey Abner Adorno, Peterbilt, No Guts No Glory Stable, Foxhall Equine, University of Maryland, Tapit, Cupid, Cody’s Wish, Saratoga Race Course, Parx Racing, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association, Stable Duel.

— The Starting Gate —

Milestones

Set:

A record for annual purses earned by a steeplechase jockey in the United States, Graham Watters, at the Foxfield Races in Charlottesville, Va. Oct. 6. Watters won a \$40,000



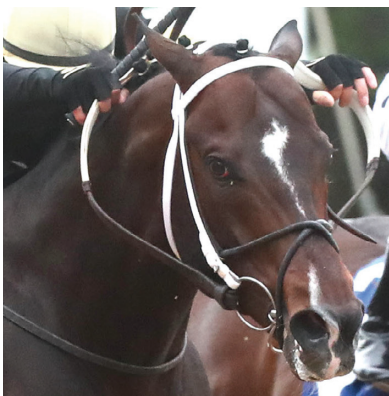
handicap hurdle with Jimmy Dan and picked up checks in four other rides that day, to get to \$843,200 and pass the previous high of \$815,897 by Gus Brown in 2001. Champion jockey in 2023, Watters extended his record two weeks later at the Far Hills Races in New Jersey when Snap Decision won the \$250,000 American Grand National-G1 and Minella Juke (Ire) captured the \$70,000 McDynamo Maiden Sweepstakes. Through Oct. 26, with five weeks to go in the National Steeplechase Association season, Watters' mounts had earned \$1,055,100. He led all jockeys with 21 wins.

Hit:

The 4,000-win mark, Paco Lopez, becoming the 84th rider in history to reach the milestone. The victory came Oct. 6 aboard Governor Sam in Keeneland's Indian Summer Stakes, which he led at every call and won by a neck. Lopez got win number 4,001 aboard Beautiful Blome in Delaware Park's White Clay Creek Stakes Oct. 9. Lopez recorded his 11th Monmouth Park jockey title (76 to 66 wins) over Jairo Rendon. Only Joe Bravo, with 13 titles, has more. This year marks the seventh straight that Lopez has had 200 wins or more, and the 10th time in the past 12 years. More than a third of the 38-year-old rider's win total has come at the New Jersey track.

Passed:

\$1 million in career earnings, Maryland-bred Jaxon Traveler, with a victory in the David M. Vance Stakes at Remington Park Sept. 29. Bred by Lenny and Pat Pineau, Jaxon Traveler has won stakes in each of his



five seasons on the racetrack for West Point Thoroughbreds and trainer Steve Asmussen. The 6-year-old son of Munnings and the After Market mare Listen Boy sold for \$80,000 as a yearling and for \$140,000 as a 2-year-old and piled up a career slate of 11 wins, eight seconds and five thirds in 33 lifetime starts through Oct. 11. The Vance was his fourth win in eight starts this year.

Received: The 2024 Bill Kraatz Thoroughbred Makeover Ambassador Award, Maryland-bred horse Talk Show Man, for showcasing the athleticism and trainability of the retired racehorse in a career beyond racing. Selected by a committee of Makeover officials, the 14-year-old multiple stakes winner – called “Riley” by both his track connections and his post-track owner Lindy Gutman – was chosen for his achievements in the show ring and a host of less quantifiable characteristics. “He knows who needs his help, and who doesn’t,” said Gutman, recalling a recent outing in which she and Riley ponied a young Pony Clubber in the hunt field. Riley was hacking on the buckle and was a perfect gentleman, which was a bit of a contrast to his last outing ponying racehorses at speed. He had been a bit less than gentlemanly that day, but faced with this new challenge of taking care of a young rider, Riley knew the difference. Gutman and Riley have been all over the Mid-

— The Starting Gate —

Milestones



Talk Show Man with Lindy Gutman.

Atlantic, appearing not only in the hunter show ring but in the hunt field as well, along with appearances at Laurel Park for Maryland Million Day – a day in which Talk Show Man was no stranger to being the center of attention, having won the Maryland Million Turf twice and beating local heroes such as Ben's Cat, Phlash Phelps and Roadhog. His post-racing career has expanded his horizons further. "He came off the track as a horse well-known locally," Gutman said. "He's better known now than he was then: now the racing adds to his total resume as a horse . . . not

the other way around." Bred by Dr. Michael Harrison, the son of Great Notion and the Haymaker mare Mark Me Special won eight races and earned \$456,556 on the track including Maryland Million Turf wins in 2014 and 2018. At the 2021 Makeover, he finished seventh in field hunter and 12th in show hunter. Other accolades include multiple

high-point honors at the MidAtlantic Horse Rescue all-Thoroughbred show in 2021 and reserve in 2024; multiple Baltimore County Horse Show Association honors in 2022 and 2023, pleasure horse champion and most suitable hunter at the Fair Hill Thoroughbred Show in 2022, a spot in the 2022 Real Rider Cup and even a role ponying eventual winner Withoutmoreado (Ire) to the post for the 2023 Maryland Hunt Cup. The Kraatz Award is named for the Makeover's past chief steward and level three FEI official who died in 2022.

Raised:

\$12,000 for Faithful Friends Animal Society, a private nonprofit animal-welfare organization, by guests at Delaware Park racetrack and casino. In August, Delaware Park ran a month-long campaign to raise money and awareness for the organization and guests had the opportunity to donate to the shelter while learning more about its mission and the animals looking for homes. "Community

Go Figure

1 Cricket chirping in the back ring as Hip 72 sold at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale Oct. 1.

3 Horses sired by Peace and Justice with four wins – each at Parx Racing this year through Oct. 20. The Pennsylvania-bred trio consisted of 4-year-old colt Respirator, 6-year-old mare Summary Judgment and 3-year-old filly Corona Campione. Peace and Justice's owner A1A Racing bred the latter two.

6 Racetracks where Maryland-bred Jaxon Traveler has won – Pimlico Race Course, Laurel Park, Oaklawn Park, Zia Park, Sunland Park and Remington Park.

— The Starting Gate —

Milestones

involvement has been part of our DNA here at Delaware Park Casino for many years,” said Terry Glebocki, Delaware Park’s president and general manager. “Our guests live, work, and raise families here, and we are proud to support them and give back in a myriad of ways.” This campaign culminated in the first-ever Bark at Del’ Park, included an adoption event, a hot dog-themed food bar, other

dog-inspired treats, and a “just for fun” 30-yard Dog Dash on the track in between the live horse racing. Over the past twelve months, Delaware Park has donated more than \$120,000 to support Delaware non-profits such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware, Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition, Toys for Tots, Food Bank of Delaware, Brandywine Valley SPCA, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society,

St. Patrick’s Center, Autism Delaware, Children and Families First, West End Neighborhood House Life Lines.

Raised:

For Thoroughbred aftercare, \$80,000 at the Fair Hill leg of the Real Rider Cup retired racehorse competition. The event welcomed 36 horse and rider combinations along with hundreds of spectators to the Fair

— Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners —

September 13 – October 10

Maryland-bred

BEAUTIFUL BLOME, ch.f., 2022, Blofeld—Best Mom Ever, by After Market. B-Charles Blanford; O-Charles Blanford & Teresa Haupt; T-Anthony Pecoraro. \$125,000 White Clay Creek S, Delaware, Oct. 9.

BUCARO, b.c., 2022, Bucchero—Bells of War, by Declaration of War. B/O-Marie Trombetta & Commonwealth New Era Racing; T-Mike Trombetta. \$80,000 Fitz Dixon Jr. Memorial Juvenile S, Presque Isle, Sept. 20.

IT’S HAMMERTIME, ch.c., 2022, Vekoma—Steady N Love, by Not For Love. B-ZWP Stable & Non Stop Stable; O-Eagle Up Stables, London Reid Thoroughbreds & Non Stop Stable; T-Gary Capuano. \$125,000 Rocky Run S, Delaware, Oct. 9.

JAXON TRAVELER, dk.b./br.h., 2018, Munnings—Listen Boy, by After Market. B-Dr. & Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau; O-West Point Thoroughbreds; T-Steve Asmussen. \$100,000 David Vance S, Remington, Sept. 29.

POST TIME, gr./ro.c., 2020, Frosted—Vielsalm, by Fairbanks. B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman & Milton Higgins III; O-Hillwood Stable LLC; T-Brittany Russell. \$100,000 Polynesian S, Laurel, Sept. 14.

Pennsylvania-bred

CANDY REWARD, b.f., 2021, Warrior’s Reward—Unimagineable, by Twirling Candy. B/O-

Warrior’s Reward; T-Tim Girten. \$80,000 H.B.P.A. S, Presque Isle, Oct. 7.

CRISPER, ch.g., 2019, Tapiture—Je Suis Enchantee, by Leroidesanimaux (Brz). B/O-Ascoli Piceno Stables; T-Tim Woolley. \$100,000 Alphabet Soup H, Parx, Sept. 21.

FOXY JUNIOR, dk.b./br.f., 2020, Cuba—Foxy Drummer, by Flatter. B/O-Dianne Stern; T-Bernie Houghton. \$100,000 Plum Pretty S, Parx, Sept. 21.

HONORABLE WIN, gr./ro.f., 2022, Winchill—Honorable Partner, by Congressional Honor. B/O-Pewter Stable; T-Kate Demasi. \$100,000 Miss Blue Tye Dye S, Parx, Sept. 21.

LITTLE J P, gr./ro.g., 2020, Prospect Park—Dances On Water, by In Excess (Ire). B-John Parker; O-Max Gibb & Rose Rossi; T-Lyle Magnuson. \$10,000 B Cup Sprint S, Lethbridge, Sept. 29.

OUR SHOT, ch.g., 2019, Kantharos—Fleetheart, by Northern Afleet. B-Dr. S. Mark Rayburg; O-Gatsas Stables, Steven Schoenfeld & John Terranova II; T-John Terranova II. \$300,000 Woodford S-G2, Keeneland, Oct. 5.

ROSES FOR DEBRA, gr./ro.m., 2019, Liam’s Map—Essential Rose, by Bernardini. B-Blackstone Farm; O-John O’Meara & Cheyenne Stable; T-Christophe Clement. \$300,000 Presque Isle Downs Masters S-G2, Presque Isle, Sept. 20.

SMOOTH B, b.h., 2015, Weigelia—Katarica Disco, by Disco Rico. B-St. Omers Farm & Wyoaks Farm; O-LC Racing; T-Butch Reid. \$250,000 Turf Monster S, Parx, Sept. 21.

THE BOY’S WARRIOR, b.g., 2022, Warrior’s Reward—Inciarte, by Broken Vow. B/O-Warrior’s Reward; T-Tim Girten. \$100,000 Whistle Pig S, Parx, Sept. 21.

West Virginia-bred

COASTAL MISSION, gr./ro.g., 2019, Great Notion—Smart Crowd, by Crowd Pleaser. B/O-Coleswood Farm; T-Jeff Runco. \$300,000 Parx Dirt Mile S, Parx, Sept. 21.

DIAKONISSA, dk.b./br.f., 2022, Preservationist—Florid, by Lemon Drop Kid. B-Michael Furr; O-Ultra Championship Racing; T-Anthony Farrior. \$75,000 John McKee Memorial S, Charles Town, Sept. 20.

IM THE DIRECTOR, gr./ro.g., 2022, Redirect—Cat Thats Grey, by Fiber Sonde. B-John McKee; O-Beau Ridge Farm; T-Cynthia McKee. \$75,000 Henry Mercer Memorial S, Charles Town, Sept. 21.

PASCALINE, b.c., 2022, Upstart—Tres Chic, by Harlan’s Holiday. B-James Miller; O-West Point Thoroughbreds, Jimmy Kahig Racing, CJ Stables & Edwin Barker; T-Arnaud Delacour. \$150,000 Laurel Futurity, Laurel, Sept. 28.

— The Starting Gate —

Milestones

Hill Thoroughbred Horse Show Sept. 13 for an evening of competition and entertainment. The charity show jumping competition brings together personalities from across the breeding and racing industry to increase awareness and raise funds for Thoroughbred aftercare, with each rider pledging to raise at least \$1,000. Riders, mounted on off-track Thoroughbreds competed over a winding course of fences with the fastest clear rounds taking top honors. The entry list included stakes horses Flash McCaul, Ninety One Assault, Nakamura and Whereshetoldmetogo. WBAL Radio Baltimore's Scott Wykoff served as emcee. Team SMACC Down produced the overall champion and highest earning riders: Gabrielle Nguyen, last year's second-placed rider, took top honors as individual champion aboard Pet Me Pet Me, and last year's highest earner Sandi Norris smashed her previous total, personally raising \$8,439. Team Pastured Place won the team competition. For more, see therealridercup.com. Founded by Anita Motion in 2017, the original Real Rider Cup benefitted the Retired Racehorse Project and has since moved to Fair Hill, adding the Fair Hill Thoroughbred Show as beneficiary, as well as added a Kentucky leg of competition at New Vocations' Lexington flagship facility. The event has raised more than \$600,000 for Thoroughbred



Smooth B, with Mychel Sanchez aboard, passed the \$1-million mark when winning the Turf Monster Stakes on Pennsylvania Derby Day at Parx.

aftercare and Motion has a vision to expand the model to benefit more aftercare entities. To that end, the California Retirement Management Account will join the beneficiaries, with a Los Angeles leg in the works for spring 2025. Proceeds of the Real Rider Cup benefit the Retired Racehorse Project, New Vocations Thoroughbred Adoption, the Fair Hill Thoroughbred Show, and California Retirement Management Account.

Passed:

\$1 million in earnings, 9-year-old Pennsylvania-bred Smooth B, when

scoring the richest victory of his career in the \$250,000 off-the-turf Turf Monster Stakes on the Pennsylvania Derby card Sept. 21 at Parx Racing. LC Racing's son of Pennsylvania sire Weigelia was a stakes winner at 3 in the Danzig, has won the Marshall Jenney Handicap twice (2022 and 2024) and placed in it four other times, and counts seven additional stakes placings during his 62-start career for trainer Butch Reid. The 12-time winner, bred by St. Omer's Farm and WynOaks Farm out of Katarica Disco (by Disco Rico), has earnings of \$1,043,447.

Smarty Jones rides again in documentary

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Executive Director Jeff Matty was 13 when Smarty Jones captured the hearts of the racing world by winning two legs of the 2004 Triple Crown and losing a heartbreaker in the Belmont Stakes-G1.

Matty appreciates the impact the Smarty Jones story had and came up with an idea to ensure the legacy of the most famous Pennsylvania-bred of all-time would endure.

The Ride of a Lifetime – The Smarty Jones Story, is a documentary shown for the first time Sept. 20 at a party in advance of the betParx Grade 1 Pennsylvania Derby and Grade 1 Cotillion at Parx Racing. The documentary was funded by the PTHA.

"It was an easy pitch because of what he's meant to so many people. We saw this as an opportunity to continue his legacy forever," said Matty, noting that all income earned by the PTHA from the documentary will be returned to horsemen.

The documentary was produced by Philadelphia-based The WorkShop, which had not worked on a racing project. The main characters appear, including Pat Chapman of Someday Farm, who bred and owned the horse in partnership with her late husband, Roy, trainer John Servis, jockey Stewart Elliott, exercise rider Pete Van Trump, and



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

veterinarian Dr. Patty Hogan, who treated the horse after he suffered a serious eye injury as a 2-year-old.

"People were thrilled to participate," Matty said. "It's such a breath of fresh air. No one is more deserving than Mrs. Chapman. She's the first lady of Parx."

Chapman was on hand for the premiere.

Matty credited Bruce Casella, producer of Parx' *Let's Go Racing* show, Rich Romano, director of operations, and Rodney Eckenrode, of Equistar Farm in western Pennsylvania, where Smarty Jones stands, with helping to make the film a success.

A son of Elusive Quality, Smarty Jones won his first eight starts, including the Kentucky Derby-G1

and Preakness Stakes-G1, before being caught in the final strides of the Belmont, much to the chagrin of the vast majority of the 120,000 fans in attendance. That turned out to be his final start, after earning \$7.6 million.

The documentary took nine months to produce and is expected to show on a major streaming platform by late fall, according to Matty.

"We wanted to make something that the older generation can re-live, and the younger generation can experience and hopefully bring new fans to the game," Matty said. "With racetracks and horsemen, we don't always agree on everything, but we can all agree on how special this chestnut colt was."

— Paul Halloran

Stallion News

New to the Region

Beren

Susan Quick and Christopher Feifarek's seven-time stakes-winning homebred Beren has been retired and will stand alongside his sire, Weigelia, at WynOaks Farm in Delta, Pa. Beren's stud fee is \$3,500 live foal, or \$2,500 for Pennsylvania foaling mares. Racing through age 6, Beren made 35 starts and won the 2022 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash. Eleven of his 12 victories came at distances from 6 to 7 furlongs; the loan exception, the 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ -mile Crowd Pleaser Stakes at Parx Racing, was won by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths while under wraps. During one stretch, he won seven of 10 starts. He also ran in 17 consecutive stakes and finished fourth or better 14 times. His nine stakes-placings included a third in the 2023 Grade 3 General George at Laurel. Beren retires with earnings of \$944,890. His dam, millionaire Silmaril (by Diamond), was bred by Quick and Feifarek and won 12 stakes, two graded. The family includes millionaire Smooth B.

Enticed

Graded stakes winner and top-10 second-crop sire Enticed moved to Rich Miller's Mountain Springs Farm in Palmyra, Pa., to stand the 2025 season. The son of Medaglia d'Oro won the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes-G2 at 2 and the Gotham



Near-millionaire homebred Beren retires to stud at WynOaks Farm for 2025.

Stakes-G3 at 3, finished second in the Wood Memorial-G2 and third in the Champagne-G1. He retired with a record of 7-3-1-1 while earning \$595,680. Bred and raced by Godolphin, he is out of \$1,666,500 earner It's Tricky (by Mineshaft), a six-time stakes winner who scored in three Grade 1s and produced graded stakes-placed 2-year-old filly Enliven. With two crops to race, the 9-year-old stallion has sired four stakes winners, three this year including graded winner Visually. With 2024 progeny earnings in excess of \$2.5 million, he

ranks among the top 10 Mid-Atlantic sires and second on the Pennsylvania list. Owned by a syndicate, he previously stood at Darley's Jonabell Farm in Kentucky.

Imposing

A 3-year-old son of champions Gun Runner and Untapable, Imposing enters stud at Cabin Creek Farm in Gettysburg, Pa. Unraced due to injury, the bay is the product of two of Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen's best runners and is the first son of Gun Runner to stand in

— The Starting Gate —

Stallion News

the region. The 2017 Horse of the Year and champion older male, Gun Runner won six Grade 1s including the Breeders' Cup Classic, and amassed \$15,988,500. Untapable, by Tapit, earned the Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old filly in 2014 when she won six of seven starts, all graded stakes, including the Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 against older mares, as well as Grade 1 wins in the Kentucky Oaks, Cotillion and Mother Goose. She added the Grade 1 Apple Blossom Handicap the next year and retired with earnings of \$3,926,625. Second dam Fun House (by Prized) was a graded winner of \$432,922 and produced Grade 1 winner and sire Paddy O'Prado. Graded stakes-winning millionaire Red Route One (by Gun Runner) is also in the family.

Sweetontheladies

Grade 1 sprinter Sweetontheladies, who retired with 11 stakes wins and placings over five seasons to earn \$408,012, moves from Florida to stand 2025 at O'Sullivan Farm in Charles Town, W.Va. The juvenile stakes winner had his best season at 4 when placing in five stakes, four graded – seconds in the Smile Sprint and Gulfstream Park Sprint, both Grade 3, and thirds in the Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt, and Grade 3 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash. He returned at 5 to hit the board again in the Gulfstream Park Sprint and twice placed in the Sunshine

Millions Sprint. The 10-year-old son of Grade 1-winning sprinter and classic sire Twirling Candy is out of stakes-placed Whataclassybroad, by Yankee Gentleman. Half-sister Whataclassylady is the dam of stakes winner Nice Neighbor. From his first crop to race this year, Sweetontheladies is the sire of debut Sweet Cha Cha.

Zozos

Rodney Eckenrode acquired Zozos, a graded stakes-winning son of Munnings, to stand at Equistar Training and Breeding in Annville, Pa. Winning from 6 furlongs to 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ miles, Zozos excelled as a miler, winning the Ack Ack Stakes-G3 and Knicks Go Overnight Stakes at Churchill Downs and Ellis Park's Hanshin Stakes at the distance. Zozos finished second to champion Epicenter in the Louisiana Derby-G2 to earn a berth in the Kentucky Derby-G1 (he finished 10th), and third to Gun Pilot in the Grade 1 Churchill Downs Stakes at 7 furlongs. Zozos won seven times in 15 starts and earned \$1,011,463. His dam Papa's Forest, a winning daughter



Millionaire Warrant, a Grade 3-winning son of Constitution, moves to Murmur Farm in Maryland for his second season at stud.

of Forestry, has one other foal of racing age, \$331,738 earner Emerald Forest. The first son of Munnings to stand in the region, 5-year-old Zozos is from the family of Grade 1-winning millionaire Celestine.

Moved in the Region Eastwood

To Mountain Springs Farm in Palmyra, Pa. Previously stood at Blackstone Farm in Pine Grove, Pa.

Uptowncharlybrown

To Mountain Springs Farm in Palmyra, Pa. Previously stood at Blackstone Farm in Pine Grove, Pa.

Warrant

To Murmur Farm in Darlington, Md. Previously stood at Blackstone Farm in Pine Grove, Pa.

ABLAZE WITH TALENT



BLAZING SEVENS

G1-winner by **GOOD MAGIC**

Debut winner at 2, earning
TDN Rising Star status

Won the stallion-making **CHAMPAGNE S. (G1)**
like leading sires Scat Daddy, Complexity,
Practical Joke, and Uncle Mo.

2nd by a head in the **PREAKNESS S. (G1)**
to National Treasure.

Strikingly Handsome,
Come See For Yourself

NOW AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION



DARBY DAN
FARM

NEW FOR 2025
2025 Fee: \$12,500

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Pet Me Pet Me



In her profile on the website for the 2024 Real Rider Cup retired racehorse competition/fundraiser, Gabrielle Nguyen wrote of her mount Pet Me Pet Me:

“She’s a very class mare that has competed up to the Advanced/4* level with her owner Kaelen Speck. She is a queen and she knows it. She makes sure everyone caters to her needs and will make sure you do things to her standard.”

On Sept. 13, Nguyen and Pet Me Pet Me won the individual championship at the annual show jumping event at Fair Hill, Md., to benefit Thoroughbred aftercare. The winner of one race and \$14,055 in her nine-start career, the 17-year-old

bay mare epitomizes how far horses can go once their days on the racetrack end.

Pet Me Pet Me was bred by Eileen Hartis and foaled in Texas May 12, 2007. By multiple graded stakes winner Midway Road, she is out of another graded stakes winner – the Maryland-bred Oh Say mare Balotra. Bred, owned and campaigned by Will Farish of Lane’s End Farm, Midway Road stood at the flagship property in Versailles, Ky. He was transferred to Lane’s End Texas, near Hempstead, for the 2006 breeding season.

Unraced at 2 and 3, Hartis sent Pet Me Pet Me to the Southern California barn of trainer Vladimir Cerin in 2011. She made her first four starts at Hollywood Park; her best finish was a fourth in her debut. Late that summer Hartis shifted gears, sending Pet Me Pet Me to Jonathan Sheppard in Unionville, Pa. The filly won her East Coast debut in a \$7,500 maiden claimer at Delaware Park Sept. 19, 2011. It would be her only win. She lost her next four races, all low-level claimers for non-winners of two, by a combined 51.25 lengths.

The overwhelming consensus in the Sheppard barn was that Pet Me Pet Me had zero interest in racing.

A Sheppard staffer contacted event rider Erin Sylvester Kanara, based in nearby Cochranville, who saw potential immediately, took the mare and began the retraining process. None of this is unusual for this corner of the Thoroughbred world. Your Thoroughbred isn’t much of a racehorse? No matter. Make a phone call to someone in your network, and that horse transitions seamlessly into a next career. With horses, and real estate, it’s location, location, location.

To help with expenses of a new business, Kanara was going to swap Pet Me Pet Me (rechristened “Mimi”) for an Arabian pony owned by a young student in her lesson program. The girl had outgrown the pony and needed a horse. Veterinarians discovered a bone spur in the mare’s right hock, so the buyers passed.

Another student, Speck, was also moving up from a pony and her family didn’t hesitate to make the purchase.

"We've had her since she was 7, and I started riding her when she was 8," Kaelen Speck said. "The barn manager at Jonathan Sheppard's pulled her for Erin because she didn't want to race anymore, and she was lying down before they could get her into the starting gate, so that wasn't going to work. She's got such a people personality, and I believe that's why she was pulled. Most people would look at her and say, 'This horse can't do anything; she doesn't want to work.'"

"And I've been with Erin the whole time. I used to take lessons with Boyd Martin as well, and he would always tell Erin that she needed to find a way to buy Mimi back because she was so incredible. But we are never going to sell her."

Growing up together, Speck and Pet Me Pet Me completed two four-star events.

"I last competed her in 2021, and she had done the tendon in her left front in 2018; the year I went to college. We rehabbed that injury, brought her back to the second four star in 2020, and she reinjured the same leg in a different spot so we gave her a bunch of time off and tried to bring her back, and she just wasn't really wanting to jump bigger jumps, especially into the water. She wanted to retire from the upper levels, which was fine."

Enrolled in dental school, Speck looked for a student for an on-property lease for Mimi. Another Kanara client stepped up and rode the mare until starting her own family.

Nguyen, now 20, started riding with Kanara in January 2022.

"Gabby is dating my brother," Speck said, "so this really is a family horse. Because she's so quirky, we just want to make sure Mimi is treated well and loved for all that she's done. And Gabby loves her."

Nguyen and Mimi compete in novice level eventing and 3-foot jumper classes.

"Mimi is teaching me more about eventing because my own personal horse has no interest in it, so I use him for dressage," Nguyen said. "She is a great teacher; she has been there, done that and is just perfect."

Nguyen has been riding Mimi regularly since June of this year. Watching them during the Real Rider Cup in September, you would think they've been together for much longer. Completing the course in :45.370, they were a full five seconds faster than the next horse.

Several hundred miles away in South Florida, a total stranger was moved to tears by news of the win. When Shannon Spies learned that a daughter of Midway Road was competing, she followed every update with keen interest. Spies worked for trainer Neil Howard from 1998 through 2006. Among her charges was Midway Road, who finished

"Mimi is teaching me more about eventing because my own personal horse has no interest in it, so I use him for dressage. She is a great teacher; she has been there, done that and is just perfect."

– *Gabby Nguyen*

second in the 2003 Preakness Stakes-G1 and 2004 Pimlico Special-G1. Their connection was deep, and Spies never forgot the idiosyncratic son of Jade Hunter.

Spies visited the stallion at Lane's End Texas in 2010 before he was sold and relocated to Richard Hessee's Trophy Club Training Center in Royal, Ark.

In April 2016, Spies' friend Lisa Coates stopped at Trophy Club. Inquiring about Midway Road, she learned he was retired from breeding and serving as the farm teaser. Coates snapped a photo with her phone and texted it to Spies with the message, "Recognize this guy?"

Naturally, Spies did.

Coates mentioned to the farm manager that when they were ready to pension Midway Road, she was certain his former groom would love to have him. Four months later, Coates got word that Midway Road was Spies' horse if she was interested.

"Lisa called and said, 'Do you want your boy?'" Spies said. "I was in shock; it was like 'Is this really happening?'"

Hessee recommended a shipper to transport the horse from Arkansas to Florida.

"He gave me a suggestion of what to try, and this really sweet 'Grandma and Grandpa' outfit drove from Texas to pick him up in Arkansas and brought him to me in South Florida," Spies said. "And they literally checked in with me every step of the way."

On Sept. 6, 2016 – to great fanfare – Midway Road arrived at his forever home with his former groom. He is now thriving at 24 and still a stallion.

"I don't even know how to describe it. It was very surreal," Spies said. "To lead him off the trailer and get him settled

It's been a lovely Autumn

But are you ready for Old Man Winter?

Make sure your mares, youngsters, training horses and stallions are all prepared for the demands of the coming cold weather. Talk to our equine nutritionist Michelle Jennings today! And remember, The Mill does more than just feed horses. Whatever your needs, on the farm and at the track, you will find the solution here.

410.838.6111 • www.TheMillStores.com

FUELED BY 

Environmentally Sensitive Company

Horse Manure Removal

Fastrak Express, Inc.
Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost, Inc.



West Grove, PA

Rising Sun, MD

15 Horse Minimum • Straw Only

(800) 529-2146 • (410) 658-0520

Certified Commercial Manure Broker

www.fastrakexpress.com

in, then to start grooming him again, it was like major flashbacks. He still had the same habits. I feel like we just fell right back into our routine after 11 years. I don't think they forget."

Two Thoroughbreds have connected three people who've never met. Speck and Nguyen were fascinated to learn about Mimi's sire, and Spies is beyond proud to hear about his daughter's achievements. Even her attitude reflects back to her sire.

"She is The Queen, and she embodies that name well," Speck said. "She thinks she runs the barn, and she pretty much does."

Spies laughed at the description.

"She gets that from her daddy," she said. "I love this mare. I don't even know this mare, and I love her. He was never going to have many offspring, so this is a huge deal for him to have a daughter who went on to accomplish big things like this." ■

2025

ROSTER

**With NY-Sired Breeders' awards raised to 40%,
it's a great time to breed in New York.**

The NY stakes program has over
\$2.3 million in stakes races
for **NY-sired foals born anywhere.**

*Standing in partnership with
WinStar Farm, CHC, Inc.,
Taylor Made Stallions,
Mill Creek Farm, & Fortune Farm

**In a partnership with
Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions,
Waldorf Farm & Hidden Lake Farm

Americanrevolution*

Constitution - Polly Freeze

Chewing Gum

Candy Ride (ARG) - Shared Heart

Disco Partner

Disco Rico - Lulu's Number

Mind Control**

Stay Thirsty - Feel That Fire

Slumber

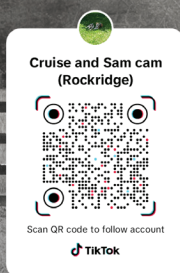
Cacique - Sound Asleep

Tourist

Tiznow - Unbridled Melody

War Dancer

War Front - Deed I Do



Now Forming a
MIND CONTROL
RACING SYNDICATE
WITH MICROSHARES AVAILABLE



Erin Robinson 859.421.7531
Lere Visagie 518.851.6616
5384 Route 9H-23 Hudson, New York 12534
www.rockridgestud.com



NYBREDS.COM
NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDING & DEVELOPMENT FUND

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

A mixed-up game races through autumn

Somewhere in a conversation about Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale, sales consignor Becky Davis lamented the shrinking conditions in the commercial market and the breeding/racing industry. She talked about yearling buyers not wanting to purchase horses from older mares, no matter the history; about buyers steering clear of any horse not bred on an "A" nick; about the disinterest in regional sires; about people staring intently at tablets and printouts instead of horses.

"I think society as a whole is not really conducive right now to this game because it's become more of a game instead of an art," she said. "It requires patience and development and there aren't enough people around that have that anymore. Everybody wants things faster and nature doesn't necessarily play that way, because . . ."

This is where I jumped in and blurted, "It's an animal, not a boat."

I might put it on a T-shirt.

It's flippant, a generalization, obvious and everything else but it's not wrong. Too many people treat racehorses and future racehorses – past racehorses too – like boats, muscle cars, real estate, mutual funds or some other blend of investment and recreation. There's no step-by-step perfect plan to produce a successful racehorse. Nothing is one-size-fits-all or plug and play. That "A" nick generated by your favorite pedigree software might have been a "C" five years ago, and therefore the "C" you see today might be an "A" someday. That yearling from an older mare or by a local senior stallion could become a great one. Somethingroyal was 18 when she foaled Secretariat. Great Notion will turn 25 in January and is still



shining with graded stakes winner Future Is Now, Maryland Million Classic winner Brilliant Ice and seven juvenile winners this year.

Think about it. You can't guarantee a winner or a big return on an investment in racing with an algorithm or some sort of rule you live by. That's not how this works. If it were possible to guarantee success, all the horses would belong to one person – or, more than likely, one racing club with thousands of investors – and the whole game would collapse. A good horse can come from anywhere and belong to anybody. People need to remember that.

Davis topped the sale for the fifth time in nine years and sold three six-figure yearlings. But a Divining Rod filly in the consignment received no bid and a Street Magician filly from the family of Maryland-bred star Post Time brought \$5,000.

Both could (should?) have been \$10,000 to \$15,000 yearlings and might have been a decade ago.

"The fact of the matter is I don't know who's looking for that anymore," Davis said. "The horses are still there. The people aren't there."

Where are they? I don't know, exactly, but at least some are doing other things, getting discouraged by a fractured/frayed sport, buying shares with try-to-hit-a-home-run racing syndicates, teaming up with others to purchase more expensive horses or spending considerably more money individually because someone told them that's the way to make it big.

Somehow, all eight stakes winners on the Maryland Million card at Laurel Park Oct. 12 raced for their breeders

– shout it from the rooftops – but I fear that's an outlier or partially a product of the depressed sales climate.

The game needs more people to race their homebreds, but it also needs a stronger commercial market. Both things can be true, and something will have to give somewhere.

The Mid-Atlantic racing program is saturated with too many tracks trying to run too many days for the size of the foal crops in the Mid-Atlantic and throughout the country. Regional stallions struggle to make impacts while leading stallions in Kentucky cover 200 mares a year and Kentucky-sired horses dominate Mid-Atlantic sales results. As much as the region touts its various state incentives, I've heard of would-be buyers shying away – in favor of the purse incentives for Kentucky-breds at that state's tracks.

At the end of the sale in Timonium, Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning Jr. talked about the Mid-Atlantic states working together to raise the value of horses bred and/or certified – and eventually sold and raced – in the region. It should happen, tomorrow, as step one in trying to secure the future.

We're all in the same boat after all, even if it's not a boat.

No December Sale

The smaller yearling sale at Timonium provided the writing on the wall, so it came as no surprise that Fasig-Tipton Midlantic canceled this year's December mixed sale. There simply weren't enough horses, what with smaller foal crops, competition from digital sales and lower demand from buyers. Last year, the sale – mainly weanlings and broodmares – produced a \$1.5 million gross from 187 horses offered. ■

Full Circle

COLONIAL CUP BRINGS BIG IMPACT IN RETURN TO STEEPLECHASE SCHEDULE

By Joe Clancy ■ Photographs by Tod Marks



When Toby Edwards went to work for Irish trainer Arthur Moore in 1985 and listened to tales of a trip to the United States with steeplechase star *L'Escargot for the 1970 Colonial Cup, the facts barely made sense.

An Irish-based horse, trained by Moore's father Dan, who'd won the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March, traveled to Camden, S.C. – by way of Nova Scotia – in November for the first running of a \$100,000 steeplechase? The future English Grand National winner started in a field of 22 that included not only the best American runners but *Crisp from Australia, *Ermitage from France, *Young Ash Leaf from England, *L'Escargot's rival *French Tan II and Irish Grand National winner *Herring Gull? In 1970? With star jockeys Tommy Carberry, Eddie Harty and Pat Taaffe taking on American stalwarts Joe Aitcheson, Jerry Fishback, Tom Skiffington, Leo and Michael O'Brien and Doug Small?

"I knew his father trained *L'Escargot and I remember watching him win the Grand National and the Gold Cup when I was a child," Edwards said. "We talked about *L'Escargot and he said one of his favorite trips was to the Colonial Cup. He traveled with the horse and talked about what it was like and how it went. I didn't know what Camden was then and I don't think I could have pointed to South Carolina on a map."

So afford Edwards some leeway if he pauses to appreciate the moment when the Colonial Cup returns to the racing calendar as a Grade 1 steeplechase Nov. 17. The meet's executive director can hardly believe it himself when you spell it all out.

"It's amazing how life is a circle," he said last month. "If you'd told me then that 30 years later I'd be living in Camden running that racetrack I would have said you were out of your mind."

Nevertheless, here Edwards is.

The Englishman navigates the return of one of U.S. jump racing's signature events. Founded by Marion duPont Scott and Ray Woolfe, the race was an end-of-season fixture from that inaugural event through 2016 – crowning champions, showcasing future Hall of Famers and proving points with its 2¾ miles, 17 jumped-only-once fences, sprawling course and lucrative purse. The race, and the November meet that hosted it, halted after the 2016 running – won by Maryland-bred Top Striker – due to the financial constraints of putting on two annual race meets at Springdale Race Course.

Wildly successful from a sponsorship and attendance viewpoint, the spring Carolina Cup carried the more stately Colonial Cup autumn meet until it couldn't anymore. Faced with having to shelve both someday, Edwards' predecessor John Cushman advised his board to scrap the November race.



Toby Edwards

"I'm the one who recommended to the board that we had to close it down or we were going to go broke," said Cushman, a Camden resident and retired champion steeplechase jockey who has seen every Colonial Cup. "I was 10 years old when the first one was run. It was a big deal, a BIG deal. I was born into a horse-racing family, but I'm probably a better businessman than I was a horseman and there wasn't any choice. We couldn't keep absorbing those losses the race was producing."

For years, a raucous tailgating area called College Park fueled much of the Carolina Cup's attendance and the Carolina Cup Racing Association's revenue growth – thanks to 200 busloads of college kids from the Carolinas and beyond and dozens of party tents. The atmosphere also brought safety issues, publicity, social-media posts and internet videos better left to the *Spring Break* movie or old-school Cinemax network and problems no one foresaw.

"College Park was fast becoming a major liability and the story about the races being told was not about the families and the fun or the horses, it was about what was happening in College Park which was out of control," said Edwards. "What you found as an event organizer was that the story was being

told live on social media and you had no ability to try to change that story."

The attention brought scrutiny from law enforcement, pushback from sponsors, negative notoriety. And changes. The association, which oversees both meets, stopped selling College Park tickets. The buses went elsewhere; so did the revenue they generated.

"Sponsors are concerned if their name is attached to an event that had a reputation such as College Park did," said Edwards, whose meet benefits the Health Services District of South Carolina. "It was the right decision, but financially it was a big hit."

Ultimately, the Colonial Cup took that hit.

"The reason it folded was purely economics, a lack of ticket sales, a lack of robust sponsorship," said Edwards.

A former steeplechase trainer and jockey based in Camden, he'd long been involved with the races in one form or another. When Cushman, executive director from 1990-2000 and brought back on an interim basis in 2017, raised the idea of taking the position Edwards listened. Sort of.

"I was hesitant," Edwards said. "I saw the challenges."

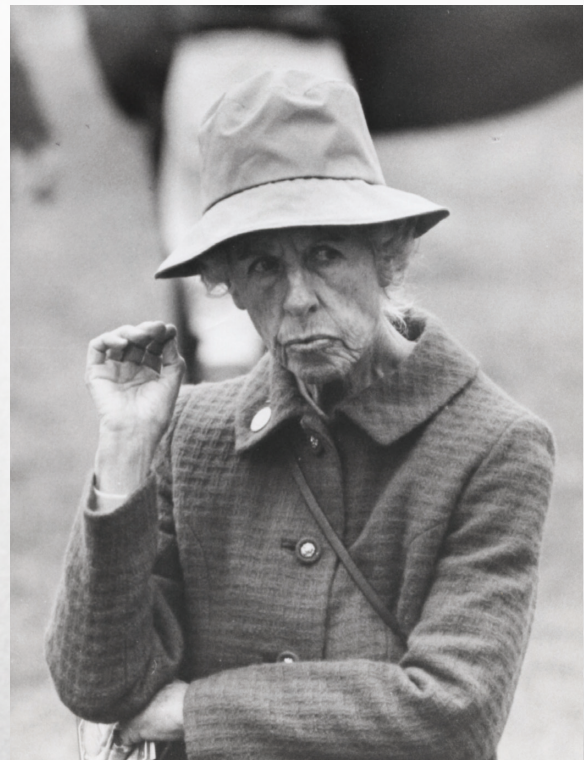


There was no College Park. The Colonial Cup came back as a spring feature in 2018, but there were no plans to continue it. The job was to make the spring meet a success, without an important revenue source, keep the Springdale course and training center operational and find firm financial footing to sustain it all.

He shadowed Cushman for months, used the challenges as motivation and then talked himself into accepting the job – with a caveat.

“Toby, you need a goal. What’s that goal going to be?” he told/asked himself. “The goal has to be bringing back that final day of championship racing in the fall, Marion duPont Scott’s dream, the Colonial Cup.”

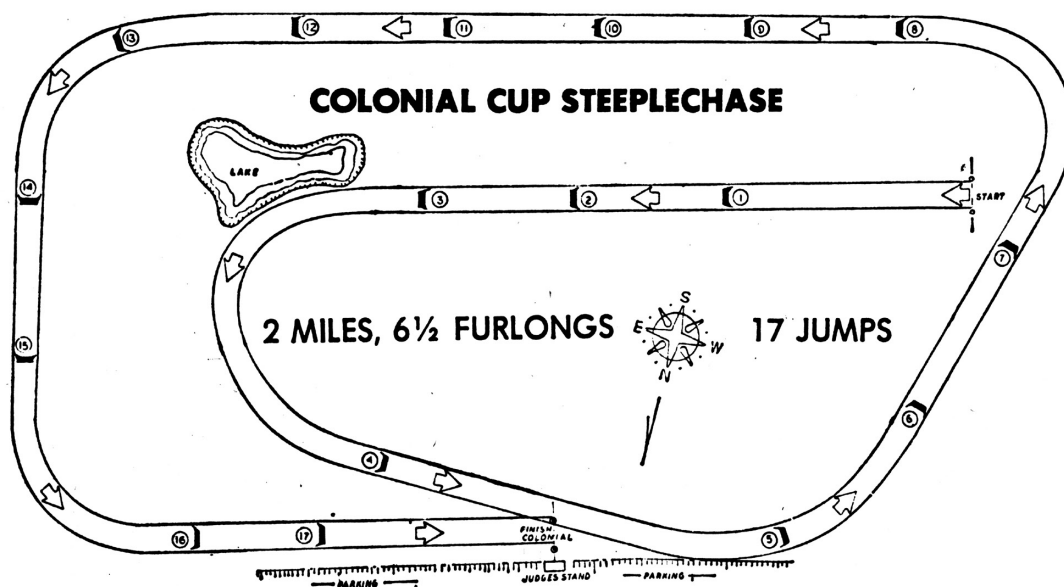
All of it nearly ended less than two years later when South Carolina’s first case of Covid-19 occurred in Camden just before the 2020 spring race meet. Edwards remembers an emergency board meeting to discuss the consequences of running the races, watching tents get erected on the race course and drawing the conclusion that canceling was the only real choice. Like many jump races, the Carolina Cup didn’t happen in 2020. The meet offered full refunds to sponsors and



PETER WINANTS COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY (2)

Marion duPont Scott, at the Colonial Cup in 1970, was the driving force behind the new race and is remembered as its namesake now. Below: The 22-horse field heads to the second fence of the first Colonial Cup in 1970.





The Colonial Cup's original course map at Springdale Race Course. The 2024 race will be run at 2 5/8 miles over Springdale's standard hurdle course, which has a watering system.

ticket purchasers. Some rolled them over to 2021, when the meet occurred in late May instead of late March, but vendors needed to be paid and the financial picture grew even more scrambled.

"That financially set us back, but we've now put together three very successful years and we decided that there was no time like the present," Edwards said. "Let's bring back the Colonial Cup."

The 49th running carries a \$150,000 purse, Grade 1 status and is part of a six-race card worth \$320,000 thanks in large part to corporate partners Mullikin Law Firm, Brown Advisory, South Carolina Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the City of Camden, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Kershaw County, Woodford Reserve, Ford's Gin and a slew of others.

"We've had great support from our board, great support from people in our community and great support from the players in the game who helped us raise some of the purse money," Edwards said. "There's no doubt the town is excited and looking forward to it. It's fallen off people's radar a little bit and it's going to take us a couple years to build it back to get back on people's social calendars in the fall."

The race meet isn't new, but also didn't happen for seven years. The absence created a learning curve for organizers, potential sponsors, spectators, even horsemen.

"The hardest part is sponsorship because you're selling a dream and companies want facts and figures and numbers

and return on their investment," Edwards said. "In the spring, we have all those numbers. In the fall, we don't. That's been a heavy lift to get sponsors to see our dream, but those things will, I'd like to think, be easier after we've got a couple years under our belts.

"We weren't going to bring it back for one year. We needed to figure out bringing it back to stay. I'm hopeful and confident we'll be able to pull it off."

Tom Mullikin, chairman of the Carolina Cup Racing Association board, pointed to key partnerships with helping ensure the Colonial Cup's return.

"There have been two fundamental pivots for us: the state has invested heavily in the property so we're making really significant capital improvements, and for we are getting broad engagement from the community," he said. "As important as the jockeys, trainers, owners are, having broad support with the community and the state is very important too."

Equestrian activities drive tourism dollars to the area, and the spring and fall races are a key component along with polo, horse shows, etc. Recognition from state, county and city governments of that importance, plus a rebranding away from College Park and toward more family activities, have changed the equation.

"The economics of the equestrian sector is incredibly important but it's a three- or four-legged stool," Mullikin said. "You've got to have the other pieces to it. We've got a formula now, and we're going to work it."

The Same, but Different

A traditionalist will wince at the second half of this sentence, but the return of the Colonial Cup is not the full return of the Colonial Cup.

The old, packed-pine fences went away after the 2010 running – in favor of the standard National Fence – and aren't coming back. That move was made to save money and ensure uniform jumping questions throughout the race and to the rest of the races on the schedule. One year, the pine trees harvested for the fences might produce stiff branches. Another year, far softer ones. The Cup Course required 17 individual jumps, a heavy lift no matter the construction, when every other hurdle course in the country features multiple laps of the same circuit.

The sweeping course with the longest backstretch, widest turns and largest infield in U.S. jumps racing won't be used this year, or the foreseeable future, and the distance has been shortened to 2½ miles instead of 2¾. With help from the state, gifted the property when Scott died in 1983, Springdale installed irrigation on its main hurdle course last year. The move paid immediate dividends with healthier turf and better footing for horses. The budget didn't include the outer course, reserved mainly for two races per year, however.

"With the health and safety of the horses being paramount it was felt that to run it over the original layout – including the outer course – horses would be racing on irrigated ground, then to whatever Mother Nature gave us and then back on irrigated ground," Edwards said. "That was not in the best interests of the horses. Hopefully we will come up with the funds to irrigate that outer track . . . and bring it back to what it was."

That tall order will have to wait, for now, as simply bringing back the race and its host race meet were challenges enough.

The race will still help decide the Eclipse Award for North America's champion steeplechaser and provide one more goal for the top horses. Richer at \$250,000, October's American Grand National in New Jersey served as the final Grade 1 stop on the schedule the last several years but racing continued for another month or more and the top horses typically didn't start again. Now, the Colonial Cup steps into a void, even as other Grade 1 jump races have joined the schedule at NSA meets and host racetracks. In 2023, the schedule included just five Grade 1 hurdle races. This year, there will be nine. The Colonial Cup and its 12 jumps will write the last chapter.

"It was an empty feeling not having it," said Edwards. "We're excited to give owners another opportunity. I hope all

those horses that have run in the top three in Grade 1s up to now will show up and we'll have one hell of a fantastic race and people will someday talk about it the way we talk about the early days of the Colonial Cup."

A Signature Race from the Start

In 1969 former trainer and amateur jockey Ray Woolfe, who oversaw Springdale for Scott, proposed the idea of an important international jump race as a way to celebrate the 300th anniversary of a South Carolina settlement at what is now Charleston.

On National Steeplechase Day at Saratoga, South Carolina Gov. Robert McNair made an official announcement of the \$100,000 race to be run in November 1970. Organizers raised purse money, invited and enticed foreign horses with travel stipends, built fences, expanded the course, sold the idea and then watched it all become a reality. Twenty-two horses made it to Camden for the race, run in a rainstorm Nov. 14, 1970.

The squad included American stars Top Bid, Shadow Brook, Tingle Creek, High Patches and a slew of others. Nine runners made their previous starts in other countries, none more acclaimed than *L'Escargot. Owned by U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Raymond Guest, the 7-year-old won the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March and had conquered America the year before with a win in the Meadow Brook Steeplechase at Belmont Park.

Nicknamed "The Black Kangaroo," Australian champion *Crisp made a stop in South Carolina on his way to England. *French Tan II and *Herring Gull added further class. Irishman Harty, the father of American-based trainer Eoin, rode *Big Valley II for English trainer Toby Balding. Taaffe, best known as the rider of the mighty Arkle, got the mount on *Herring Gull.

In the end, the Americans prevailed as Top Bid, Shadow Brook and Jaunty completed the first three positions. *L'Escargot and Carberry checked in fourth, best of the overseas runners. France's *Ermitage finished sixth, followed by *Crisp. Marylander Mikey Smithwick trained the winner, ridden by another Marylander Joe Aitcheson. Owner Lillian Phipps' horses finished first and third, taking home \$73,000 (almost \$600,000 by today's standards).

The first Colonial Cup's depth would become clearer with time. Aitcheson and Smithwick were inducted into Thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame, along with Shadow Brook's trainer Sidney Watters Jr., plus jockey Jerry Fishback (fifth aboard *Encarnado) and trainer Mickey Walsh (10th with *Dictora).



DEBRA MALONEY

Above: At the last fence in 1971, Inkslinger (right) and Soothsayer battle for the lead, just ahead of 1970 winner Top Bid.



PETER WINANT'S COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY (2)

Left: Top Bid gets the winner's blanket and returns with a happy (and wet) Joe Aitcheson in 1970 while securing a championship.



Owner George Strawbridge (left) meets future Hall of Famer and two-time winner Cafe Prince and jockey Dave Washer in the 1975 winner's circle.

Three-time winner and Hall of Famer Lonesome Glory is buried at the racecourse.





Three-time winner and Hall of Famer McDynamo jumps the last fence for Jody Petty in 2006.

After Camden, *L'Escargot went back across the Atlantic and won another Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1971 and the Grand National at Aintree in 1975. *Crisp won England's Queen Mother Champion Chase in 1971 and battled Red Rum in an epic Grand National in 1973. Conceding 23 pounds, *Crisp led for most of the race and touched down over the last with a 15-length lead only to be caught in

the final two strides and lose by three-quarters of a length. *L'Escargot was third in that race, the first of three National wins for Red Rum. America's Tingle Creek went to England and won 23 times, becoming a fan favorite as a blazing, bold-jumping 2-mile specialist over chase fences. The Virginia-bred is honored with the Tingle Creek Chase at his favorite track Sandown.

Then a seven-pound apprentice jump jockey, and student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Kip Elser finished 15th on The Critter – owned by Elser's father Henry and trained by Ronnie Houghton – but felt like a winner just for being there.

"It was some kind of a kick," said Elser, better known as a bloodstock agent and 2-year-old consignor now. "With all the international horses, good horses from here and there, it was wonderful. It was a big, huge field and a big, huge deal. The week before, when those international horses showed up, that was something.

"The Critter was an outsider, but had won a good race at Belmont that year. The fences and the distance suited him if the company didn't."

A Camden resident, Elser feels the impact of the race regularly and pays credit to Scott for making it happen. Born in 1894, the great-granddaughter of the DuPont Company founder owned and bred Thoroughbreds for the flat and jumps, winning the 1938 English Grand National with Battleship. In the U.S., she campaigned flat champions Mongo



Two-time winner and Hall of Famer Good Night Shirt and Willie Dowling lead McDynamo early in the 2007 race.

“It’s such a magical race. Historically, it’s always been an important race and it’s just a hard race to win. It was unique and it was a distinguishing race . . . Hopefully, it’s here to stay.”

– *Sanna Neilson, one of three people to win the Colonial Cup as a trainer and a jockey*

and Proud Delta. Her Soothsayer won a steeplechase title in 1972, the year he captured the Colonial Cup. She started Virginia’s Montpelier Hunt Races, run for the 89th time this month, at her home and stable’s training headquarters. Scott owned the Camden Training Center, a separate facility to Springdale, and in 1953 bought Springdale from Mrs. F. Ambrose Clark.

When Scott died in 1983, she bequeathed Montpelier (once the home of President James Madison) to the National Trust for Historic Preservation along with \$10 million as an endowment. Similarly, she left Springdale to the state and created the racing association to run the meets for charity. The Colonial Cup carries her name now, but she was always the force behind it.

“Mrs. Scott was such an amazing lady and her foresight to pull that off, a big, end-of-the-year international race,” Elser said. “Her foresight to leave the grounds there to the state, it’s not just generous, it’s being incredibly insightful along with the generosity.”

Scott’s brother William duPont Jr. once owned the Fair Hill property in Maryland and Pennsylvania, now home to the Fair Hill Training Center, Fair Hill racecourse, and some 7,000 acres of preserved land in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The Modern Cup

That first year made history, but there was more to come. Four-year-olds Inkslinger and Soothsayer, who ran on the undercard in 1970, finished first and second in the 1971 Colonial Cup. The next year, Virginia-bred Soothsayer got his revenge, with Maryland-bred Inkslinger second. Both would go on to race successfully in England. Trained by Peter Howe for Scott, Soothsayer started in four Colonial Cups – win-

ning that 1972 running, finishing second (by a neck) in 1971, second again (by a nose) in 1973 and third in 1975. The neck and the nose arguably cost him two more championships and a spot in racing’s Hall of Fame.

Future Hall of Famer Cafe Prince won in 1975 and 1977. Grand Canyon, representing New Zealand, won in 1976 and 1978. He too went on to success in England. American Hall of Famers Zaccio (twice) and Flatterer (four times) swept the race six consecutive years, from 1981-86. Lonesome Glory won three times in the 1990s on his way to the Hall of Fame. McDynamo won three in the 2000s before becoming a Hall of Famer. Good Night Shirt ruled the 2007 and 2008 races, and joined the others in the Hall.

In 47 November editions, the winner became that year’s champion steeplechaser 26 times. The race tested stamina, speed, jumping ability and any other measure of a good steeplechase horse.

“I always felt like the Camden course was a really fair course,” said Sanna Neilson, who won the Colonial Cup as a jockey and a trainer. “You needed traveling speed, you needed to be able to lay up close if you had to, you needed to be a really good jumper because there’s a lot of jumping.”

Riding as an amateur, Neilson steered Mistico (Chi) to victory for trainer Jonathan Sheppard in 1992. Nine years later, the Neilson-trained Pennsylvania-bred Lord Zada won the race in 5:05.60, the second-fastest time in history. Two years after that, McDynamo won the first of his three (the others back-to-back in 2005 and 2006).

McDynamo won pretty much everywhere Neilson sent him, but he showcased his stamina over the frequently soft course at Far Hills in New Jersey where he won seven years in a row and flashed his speed at Camden where he won three of his five starts.

“He had a high cruising speed, and could quicken,” Neilson said. “He was known for his stamina, but he was a fast horse. All three of the horses I won the race with were really good jumpers, really efficient horses who loved to jump. You have to have that for sure. Horses that could win that race are hard horses to come by.”

Individual horses aside, the race stood up through various eras of the sport even if no one was quite sure what to make of it in the beginning.

“It’s clearly been missed and so sad that it’s been missing,” Neilson said. “It’s such a magical race. Historically, it’s always been an important race and it’s just a hard race to win. It was unique and it was a distinguishing race. It was the last race for those good horses and gave one last chance to put your mark on the year. Hopefully, it’s here to stay.” ■



*Don't miss our
Holiday Open House*

December 20 – 11-4

Celebrating Maryland's horses

A Special Collection
of equine-related books
Over 5,000 volumes
in this reading / research library

Stop by for a visit

Monthly happenings include
panel discussions, author talks,
book signings and more

Check out our Fourth Monday Events
and more on our calendar at
MarylandHorse.com/library

Meeting space available

321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136

Open Monday – Friday • 9 – 5

Learn more at

MarylandHorse.com/library



Love Wins

YEARLING OUT OF HOW MY HEART WORKS TOPS SALE FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

By Joe Clancy ■ Fasig-Tipton Photos

Leading the annual Sneaker Creeper footrace for children in Chestertown, Md., Allison Davis graciously paused at a chute near the finish line to let another runner pass.

“Why did you let that other little girl go first?” Allison’s mom Becky asked afterward.

“Oh,” 3-year-old Allison replied. “I wanted the other girl to go first.”

“But you didn’t win the race,” Becky said. “Why didn’t you want to win the race?”

“I don’t know, Mommy, that’s just how my heart works.”

Becky Davis hugged her daughter, and quickly jotted down the phrase as a potential name for a Thoroughbred. Fourteen or so years later, Allison just received her first college acceptance letter and a yearling out of How My Heart Works topped Fasig-Tipton Midlantic’s fall yearling sale for the second consecutive year. Hip 49, a filly by City of Light, sold for \$165,000 at the Timonium, Md., sale Oct. 1 to join her half-brother by Nyquist who brought \$205,000 last year. The back-to-back toppers join a \$200,000 Nyquist filly sold in 2021 and a \$180,000 Arrogate colt sold in 2022.

Testing the research department, no mare has topped the sale in back-to-back years so call How My Heart Works a history maker. The feat wasn’t lost on co-breeder Dr. Tom Bowman.

“Anything like this that happens, if I reflect back on how long I’ve been around, it has to be a sense of pride, a sense of accomplishment,” he said. “You can’t get a big head about it though, because a lot of it is just biological luck.”

How My Heart Works goes way back with the people in her life. Bowman and business partner Milton Higgins III, who died a month before the 2024 sales-topper was born, bought her granddam Formalities Aside as a broodmare prospect in 2005. She’d won a maiden race in Canada in 2004, but was injured in a race at Delaware Park and was at Fair Hill Training Center recuperating.

“She was a small, pretty much non-descript mare that had hurt her knee, and an ordinary kind of racehorse,” said Bowman. “But Milton lit up when he saw her family. He said that family could explode into something special. That mare’s purchase was based on Milton’s global view of things.”

She produced 10 winners, topped by stakes horses Awesome Flower, First Mondays and If Not For Her.

Mated to Not For Love in 2011, Formalities Aside produced How My Heart Works the following spring. Kept to race, she won her debut in 2015 for Bowman and Higgins before losing her next three and joining the broodmare band. By then, half-sister Awesome Flower’s racing career had taken off and full-sister If Not For Her had won three times.

“It was obvious her value as a broodmare was going to be more than what you would have to run her for to have any success as a racehorse so we bred her,” said Bowman. “None of those decisions were very difficult. Not For Love was going well enough that you had to think about wanting to own a filly or two as a broodmare.”

Her three foals to race include Maryland Million Classic winner Monday Morning Qb (a son of Imagining), Group 3-placed Asawer (the \$200,000 Nyquist filly) and second-in-his-only-start Papa Lapa (the \$180,000 Arrogate colt).



Butch Reid trained Monday Morning Qb (a \$25,000 purchase) and has Papa Lapa in the barn, so obviously looked at Hip 49 and was thrilled when the filly went his way for owner Glen Bennett's LC Racing.

"It's a family we're very familiar with," Reid said. "Monday Morning Qb was giant and that ended up being his downfall. He was so big it was hard to keep him sound for those better races. This one is a little more compact, a little smaller in size and that's OK. She's as broad as he was. He's a tough guy, so if she has any of that she'll be fine. We have another half-brother, Papa Lapa, who's had some issues, but he can really run and we like those kind who can really run."

Davis and her father discussed the filly's sales prospects beforehand and tried to gauge interest from potential buyers.

"What do you think about her?" Bowman asked.

"I think she's special, she's going to be a good sale," Davis replied. "I don't think she's big enough to command the huge price we may have seen in the past but big doesn't make a racehorse."

And Davis is all about making racehorses. Her recent Timonium graduates include \$1.2 million-earner Field Pass, near-millionaire Post Time and his stakes-winning dam Vielsalm, eight-time stakes winner Street Lute and 2024 juvenile stakes winner Studlydoright. Her 25-horse consignment of 2021, which includes Post Time and millionaire Neece Marie, has earned \$3.3 million. She sold the sales-topper for the fifth time in nine years.

There's no secret. Davis calls her strategy a mix of nature and nurture. Young horses spend as much time as possible turned out in groups, learning to be competitive and building their bodies. Davis and company focus hard on nutrition.

They're careful about the weaning process. Their horses sell at Timonium in October, not Saratoga in August or Kentucky in July. Like everyone else, they worry about horses running through fences or banging into each other, but the theory remains that horses turn out better with a little less human care and fine-grained management.

"None of them are on walkers, they've never had any kind of forced exercise, that's not necessary for sales," she said. "You get a lot less injury and illness, respiratory things, irritations and all that because they're not just standing in stalls all the time. We have so many good racehorses come off our farm because we're not pushing medications through them, not pushing supplements through them, there's no forced exercise. Sometimes, by the last day of the sale, they're dragging a little bit from all the showing, but I think people understand that now."

The sales-topper and \$150,000 runner-up, a Maryland-bred half-brother to Street Lute by Nyquist, were the stars of Davis' show along with a \$120,000 McKinzie filly.

"Those two fillies came in out of the field a little earlier than some to try to avoid whatever – a kick, a bump, sun-bleached coats," said Davis. "That's the beginning of June instead of mid-July and means they were up around the barn and coming in and doing things more slowly and more carefully."

Pinhooker David Scanlon bought the Nyquist colt as a prospect to sell next year. His Timonium record includes spending \$35,000 on Army Mule in 2015 – and selling him for \$825,000 – and getting \$1.3 million for Tomodachi after buying him for \$235,000 in 2021.

"My goal is to come to this sale and try to find what I think is the best colt and we target him and go after him," Scanlon

SALES LEADERS

Fillies

- \$165,000.** B.f. City of Light—How My Heart Works, by Not For Love (Md.); Becky Davis, agt.; LC Racing.
- \$120,000.** Dk.b./br.f. McKinzie—Moon Virginia, by Jump Start (Md.); Becky Davis, agt.; Gatsas Stables.
- \$115,000.** Dk.b./br.f. Engage—Stickingtogether, by Great Notion (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agt.; Cash Is King.
- \$82,000.** B.f. Central Banker—Calidez, by Spring At Last (N.Y.); Scott Mallory, agt. V; Matt Groff.
- \$80,000.** B.f. Tiz the Law—Concerned, by Bodemeister (Ky.); Scott Mallory, agt. III; Grassroots Training & Sales.
- \$80,000.** B.f. Independence Hall—Tea Light, by Right Rigger (Ky.); Gracie Bloodstock, agt.; Toby Stables.

- \$72,000.** Ch.f. Blofeld—Celtic Music, by Yarrow Brae (Md.); Marshall Silverman, agt.; Men's Grille Racing.
- \$70,000.** Dk.b./br.f. Nyquist—Hokey Okey, by Lonhro (Aus) (Ky.); Blake-Albina Thoroughbred Services, agt. III; Country Life Farm, agt.

Colts

- \$150,000.** B.c. Nyquist—Alottalute, by Midnight Lute (Md.); Becky Davis, agt.; Scanlon Training & Sales.
- \$125,000.** Ch.c. Vekoma—Mamasan, by First Samurai (Ky.); Marshall Silverman, agt.; Gatsas Stables.
- \$100,000.** Ch.c. Midshipman—Casual Kiss, by Dehere (Md.); Thorntar, Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agt.; Men's Grille Racing.
- \$82,000.** Dk.b./br.c. Twirling Candy—Victory Rally, by Jump Start (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade), agt.; HRH Iststhejho.

- \$75,000.** Dk.b./br.c. Enticed—Happy Refrain, by Not For Love (Md.); Marshall Silverman, agt.; Cash Is King.
- \$67,000.** Gr./ro.c. Frosted—Manhattan Madam, by Not For Love (Md.); Becky Davis, agt.; Cary Frommer.
- \$65,000.** Dk.b./br.c. Hard Spun—Elevated Vision, by Great Notion (Md.); Determined Stud, Scott Mallory, agt.; Jagger Inc.
- \$65,000.** B.c. Beau Liam—Okbyecya, by Into Mischief (N.Y.); Scott Mallory, agt. VI; Kieran Norris.
- \$65,000.** B.c. Volatile—Farce, by Political Force (N.Y.); Harry Landry Bloodstock, agt.; Sallusto & Kimmel, agt.
- \$60,000.** B.c. Honest Mischief—Bustinattheseams, by Bustin Stones (N.Y.); Marshall Silverman, agt.; Scanlon Training & Sales.

said. “I look for an athlete first. I look for a horse I think I can get some value in and then we go back to the catalog page to see what we’re going to have to pay for him. I thought he stood out. He had nice, strong cannon bones, short cannon bones, a strong hind leg, good, strong body. He looks like a horse that had all the right pieces, but had a lot of room to improve and grow up and kind of really turn into a nice horse.”

Davis sold 16 horses for \$708,000, but couldn’t match a late charge by Northview Stallion Station, which led all consignors with \$811,000 in sales from 32 horses sold. The squad included three of the top seven hips, led by a \$115,000 Engage filly purchased by Chuck Zacney’s Cash Is King racing stable and Thornmar’s \$100,000 Midshipman colt bought by David Hughes’ Men’s Grille Racing.

Hughes made a run at the Maryland-bred Engage filly from the back ring, only to be outbid by Zacney sitting in the front of the pavilion.

“That was my last bid, 115,” Zacney said. “I was doing \$5,000 increments, and I think they were doing \$2,000. She’s a beauty, great mover, we scored her high. We’re very, very happy to get her. We took several looks at her. She scored the highest of all the horses at this sale for us.”

From the first crop of Northview stallion Engage, the filly is from a deep Sycamore Hall Farm family including his stakes-placed dam Stickingtogether, granddam Who Did It and Run and a slew of stakes performers including Giant Run, Introduced, American Victory, Who’s in Town and Wet My Beak, among others.

“We’re absolutely thrilled with that. There were a couple of nice Engages in the sale and she was the one everybody gravitated toward . . . We had the granddam and we still have the dam and raced the granddam and developed that whole family.”

– *Northview Stallion Station’s David Wade, about a solid sale for first-crop sire Engage*

“We’re absolutely thrilled with that,” said Northview’s David Wade of the Engage interest. “There were a couple of nice Engages in the sale and she was the one everybody gravitated toward. It’s just a fantastic family. We had the granddam and we still have the dam and raced the granddam and developed that whole family.”

Cash Is King and LC Racing, frequent partners on the track in the region, bought eight horses combined.

THE NUMBERS

TWO-YEAR FIGURES

	2024	2023
Offered	251	368
Sold	180	290
Not Sold	28.3%	21.2%
Gross	\$4,287,700	\$7,082,000
Average	\$23,821	\$24,421
Median	\$15,000	\$12,000

LEADING BUYERS

Cash Is King (5)	\$259,000
Gatsas Stables (2)	245,000
Men’s Grille Racing (6)	239,000
Grassroots Training and Sales (6)	237,000
LC Racing (3)	232,000
Jagger (6)	219,000
Scanlon Training & Sales (2)	210,000
Cary Frommer (4)	157,000
John Robb (6)	116,000
Seagull Capital (Tim Hills, agent) (3)	95,000

LEADING SIRES

Gross Sales

Nyquist (3)	\$262,000
Great Notion (10)	209,500
Midshipman (3)	205,000
Vekoma (3)	195,000
City of Light (1)	165,000
Blofeld (7)	160,000
Independence Hall (3)	147,000
Engage (4)	142,000
McKinzie (2)	140,000
Hard Spun (3)	127,500

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Nyquist (3)	\$87,333
Midshipman (3)	68,333
Vekoma (3)	65,000
Independence Hall (3)	49,000
Hard Spun (3)	42,500
Engage (4)	35,500
Mitole (3)	32,333
Honest Mischief (3)	25,667
Maximus Mischief (4)	25,500
Rock Your World (4)	24,125

LEADING CONSIGNORS

Gross Sales

Northview Stallion Station (32)	\$811,000
Becky Davis (16)	708,000
Scott Mallory (14)	577,000
Marshall Silverman (16)	428,000
Gracie Bloodstock (11)	285,000
Turning Point Bloodstock (13)	259,200
Bill Reightler (16)	247,000
Chanceland Farm (10)	175,000
Crane Thoroughbred Services (9)	156,000
Dark Hollow Farm (6)	147,000

Average (3 or more sold)

Becky Davis (16)	\$44,250
Scott Mallory (14)	41,214
Harry Landry Bloodstock (3)	30,000
Marshall Silverman (16)	26,750
Gracie Bloodstock (11)	25,909
Northview Stallion Station (32)	25,344
Dark Hollow Farm (6)	24,500
Deb Ferguson (3)	24,333
Turning Point Bloodstock (13)	19,938
Chanceland Farm (10)	17,500

“I was signing the ticket for one and trying to bid on the other. They were both clean, vet wise, and I liked both of them. We’ve been very fortunate here at this sale.”

– *David Hughes, of Men’s Grille Racing, about buying horses two hips apart*

“There were some we liked that didn’t quite meet our expectations with vetting and things like that, but I think we were on the right horses,” Zacney said. “This is a great sale for us. It’s the Mid-Atlantic – New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia-certified, Virginia-bred, Delaware-certified, Maryland-breds – we love this sale.”

After missing the Engage filly, Men’s Grille went right back to Northview and landed the Midshipman colt thanks

to a quick conversation with Wade. He watched Hughes bid on the Engage filly, and thanked him for being the underbidder.

“Have you got another good one?” Hughes asked.

Wade didn’t blink. “I have a really nice Midshipman, Hip 235, come on down to the barn and look.”

Hughes and his wife Lori went to the barn, liked what they saw and added the half-brother to Grade 2 winner Still Having Fun to the barn. Bred in Maryland by Thornmar Farm, the chestnut colt is out of Casual Kiss, the dam of five other winners including 2024 stakes winner Too Many Kisses.

Two hips later, Hughes struck again when going to \$72,000 to buy a Blofeld filly out of Celtic Music. Bred by Audrey Murray, the chestnut is out of a full-sister to stakes winners Celtic Innis and Clever Yankee.

“They were right close together so that was a challenge,” Hughes said of the timing. “I was signing the ticket for one and trying to bid on the other. They were both clean, vet wise, and I liked both of them. We’ve been very fortunate here at this sale. We bought Studlydoright here. I like yearling sales because you can get them Virginia-certified if they’re not already, and then if you do things right you can send them to Delaware. You get both certifications, and they can be Maryland-breds or New York-breds or Pennsylvania-breds too.”

Marshall Silverman sold the Blofeld filly as part of a 26-horse consignment that also produced a \$125,000

Ten-year figures for fall yearling sale

Year	Gross	Average	Sold	Buy-back %	Sales topper
2024	\$4,287,700	\$23,821	180	28.3	\$165,000. b.f. City of Light—How My Heart Works, by Not For Love; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by LC Racing.
2023	\$7,082,000	\$24,421	290	21.2	\$205,000. dk.b./br.c., Nyquist—How My Heart Works, by Not For Love; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Thorstock and Seth Morris Thoroughbreds.
2022	\$10,266,400	\$26,597	386	17.0	\$320,000. Mo Fina, dk.b./br.f., Uncle Mo—Andina (Ire), by Singpiel (Ire); consigned by Determined Stud, Scott Mallory, agent; purchased by Legion Bloodstock, agent.
2021	\$11,269,400	\$29,578	381	16.4	\$235,000. Tomodachi, ch.c., Mendelssohn—Grace Is Gone, by Malibu Moon; consigned by Northview Stallion Station (David Wade); purchased by Scanlon Training and Sales.
2020	\$9,161,200	\$24,172	379	21.7	\$270,000. Torpedo Run, ch.c., Gun Runner—Stormy Tak, by Stormy Atlantic; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Lambe Bloodstock.
2019	\$7,275,900	\$24,253	300	21.2	\$190,000. My Oath, b.c., Honor Code—Mrs. Vanderbilt, by Citidancer; consigned by Bill Reightler, agent; purchased by Seagull Capital, Tim Hills, agent.
2018	\$7,318,700	\$21,653	332	21.8	\$210,000. Kiss the Girl, b.f., Into Mischief—Spin the Bottle, by Hard Spun; consigned by CandyLand, agent II; purchased by Three Diamonds Farm.
2017	\$7,855,100	\$25,177	312	29.1	\$300,000. World Affairs, dk.b./br.c., Cairo Prince—Current Event, by Curlin; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Eisaman Equine.
2016	\$6,436,600	\$24,017	268	17.0	\$450,000. First Mondays, ch.c., Curlin—Formalities Aside, by Awesome Again; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Charles Zacney.
2015	\$5,228,800	\$19,083	274	25.3	\$200,000. Shimmering Aspen, gr./ro.f., Malibu Moon—Aspenglow, by Lion Hearted; consigned by CandyLand, agent III; purchased by Ellen Charles.

In 2004, a colt by Silver Deputy sold at this sale for \$500,000 to set a record for the most expensive horse sold at public auction in Maryland and remains the most expensive yearling sold. The record price for a horse of any age sold at public auction in Maryland is \$3,550,000 for Hejazi, a dark bay colt by Bernardini consigned by Chester and Mary Broman, Sequel Bloodstock, agent, who sold at the 2022 May 2-year-olds in training sale.

Vekoma colt (the third-highest price at the sale) purchased by Gatsas Stables. The latter figured to sell well thanks to the sire power and a female family that includes stakes performers Richter Scale, Outperformance, Best Pal and P. S. U. Grad. The Blofeld filly shouted regional class, and backed it up with the physical characteristics to attract attention.

“She’s a package and if you don’t have a package you’re just not going to get a good price anymore,” said Silverman.

Underneath the bigger figures, Silverman sold 10 horses for \$10,000 or less and didn’t sell 10 others offered. Despite the limited interest, he saw a future for them even if the region’s racing climate casts uncertainty.

“These cheap horses that bring a couple thousand, we’ll see them winning races in two or three years,” he said. “They’ll be fine. The guys around here, not knowing what’s going on with Maryland racing, they’re a little unsure. Their owners are saying, ‘Hey, it costs a fortune to get them to the races and we don’t know what the races are going to look like.’ It’s tough.”

How Small?

After running over two days for several years, the sale took place in a single session and included a downsized group of 251 horses after withdrawals. Predictably, the smaller sale produced smaller numbers as the gross dipped to \$4,287,700 on 180 horses sold from \$7,082,000 on 290 sold from 368 offered in 2023.

On the positive side, the smaller numbers did little to decrease the average which clocked in at \$23,821 compared to \$24,421 in 2023.

Fasig-Tipton’s Boyd Browning Jr. called the sale “a solid day of work” if not exceptional. He was pleased with the average and median (which increased to \$15,000 from \$12,000), and encouraged by the buyers on hand considering the fewer horses for sale.

“It was a very consistent sale, results were similar to last year in terms of the average and the median,” he said. “The catalog size was down a little bit, I think that’s reflective of what we’ve seen in regional markets right now. They’re not easy . . . I was a little concerned honestly coming in with the smaller catalog what kind of attendance and participation we would have.”

In the end, demand was high for quality horses and Browning noted the purchases by regional owners Men’s Grille, Jagger Inc., Cash Is King, LC, trainer Jerry Robb, Louis Ulman, Ultra Championship Racing and others which offered positive signs for the region’s racing industry.

TWO-YEAR BID DISTRIBUTION FIGURES

	2024			2023		
	<i>bid</i>	<i>no. sold</i>	<i>total amount</i>	<i>no. sold</i>	<i>total amount</i>	
≥	\$100,000	6	\$ 775,000	12	\$1,637,000	
≥	75,000	5	399,000	7	574,000	
≥	50,000	11	669,000	26	1,540,000	
≥	25,000	43	1,442,000	46	1,548,000	
≥	10,000	50	772,500	80	1,229,000	
≥	5,000	22	143,500	65	413,000	
others		43	86,700	54	141,000	

STATISTICS BY SEX

	<i>Colts</i>	<i>Fillies</i>	<i>Geldings</i>
Sold	102	78	0
Gross	\$2,456,500	\$1,831,200	0
Average	\$24,083	\$23,477	0
Median	\$15,000	\$16,000	0

“Broken record, there was significant demand for what seemed to be the better horses,” Browning said. “The horses that were not considered outstanding conformationally or were lacking in terms of commercial pedigrees were difficult to sell. That’s the same trend we’ve seen in recent years, and I think we’ll continue to see.”

The sale came a week after Fasig-Tipton’s California yearling sale, which put up similar numbers on gross receipts of \$4,781,400 and an average of \$29,334, and Browning drew comparisons. Both offered smaller catalogs and produced lower gross receipts on similar averages/medians. Both also depend on the health of regional racing programs.

“Certainly it’s impacted this marketplace and unless changes are made, long term, it will continue to impact it,” Browning said. “I’m not going to say it’s going to eliminate it. I didn’t say that and I don’t mean to imply that but it’s going to be hard to have a dramatic turnaround in this region.”

Northview’s Wade echoed the sentiment, connecting the health of racing in the region to the health of the sales market.

“Absolutely I worry about that because it’s shrinking,” Wade said. “All of the regional markets are suffering. The regional stallions are suffering, broodmare populations are dropping, book sizes are getting smaller, it’s a very big concern especially since we’re a stallion farm. Everything’s trending toward Kentucky stallions being the commercial horses and I’m not quite sure what the answer is. I’m hoping we’re



Protect your sales purchases with fall of the hammer coverage

We offer major medical and other risk management products

Who better to purchase equine insurance than from a horseman representing a company of horsemen? Call EMO's representative Bill Reightler to discuss your options for managing equine related exposure.

443-935-7583



going to see a revitalized racing industry in Maryland when we get the track and the training center and get something figured out with the racing dates with possibly a circuit where all of these regional tracks aren't competing against each other for field sizes."

Browning also sees hope in the shifting racing winds, and plans to be part of the future.

"As I've said and continue to say, we serve the market, we don't make the market. I think that hopefully as we've mentioned there's some opportunity and hope in the Maryland racing industry," he said. "We see some good things that are happening in Virginia. There are some good things in the Delaware program. Let's hope that we continue to see increased strength in the racing product in the region."

Browning went back to his California experience, where the possibility of regional cooperation between nearby states gets discussed similarly to the Mid-Atlantic. Horses bred in California, Arizona and Washington sharing opportunities could help all three states' Thoroughbred industries for example. The same theme could play in the Mid-Atlantic someday.

"No one's asked my opinion, but I think that it's incumbent upon the racetracks and the breed organizations and the breeders to help create more of a regional perspective than an individual state perspective," Browning said. "I live in Kentucky and the Kentucky program is so strong right now and it's continued to gain strength. It's not going to go anywhere. It's very successful. New York is very successful. It's hard to compete with those two areas . . . and in order to do that you're going to need to have cooperation within Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey [and West Virginia] to say, 'How do we be competitive on a racing and breeding perspective with our competition?'"

"It doesn't seem that impossible, but it requires everybody putting their egos aside and saying, 'OK, we've got to try to make it better.' Necessity sometimes forces that."

Sales Notes

New York-based Gatsas Stables bought two horses near the top of the leaderboard, the \$125,000 Kentucky-bred Vekoma colt from Silverman and a \$120,000 Maryland-bred McKinzie filly out of the Jump Start mare Moon Virginia from Davis. Four days after the sale, Gatsas and trainer John Terranova won Keeneland's Woodford Stakes-G2 with Our Shot, a Pennsylvania-bred purchased at the 2020 sale . . . Six of the top 10 prices are Maryland-breds. . . Three class winners from the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's yearling show were sold at the sale, including Silverman's Blofeld filly for \$72,000. The three averaged \$40,000. ■



LEXI DANIELSON

Including the sales topper, Maryland-breds accounted for five of the six yearlings selling for six figures. Clockwise from top left: a McKinzie filly out of Moon Virginia sold by Becky Davis to Gatsas Stables; an Engage filly out of Stickingtogether sold by Northview Stallion Station to Cash Is King; a Midshipman colt out of Casual Kiss sold by Northview to Men's Grille Racing; a Nyquist colt out of Alottalute sold by Davis to Scanlon Training and Sales.

The Cost of Aftercare

RETIRING SOUND HORSES ALWAYS VITAL TO SYSTEM

By Kristen Kovatch Bentley

The Thoroughbred industry has come a long way in recognizing the need for aftercare for its equine athletes. The past 15 years have seen the development and initial funding of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, which accredits non-profit organizations and awards grants, as well as the rise of the Retired Racehorse Project, which works to increase the demand for Thoroughbreds in careers beyond racing to ensure viability for the breed in the equestrian industry.

As we've explored in past columns, the aftercare industry includes accredited non-profit organizations, as well as the myriad of non-profit services and for-profit businesses and individuals working in this space who fall outside of the umbrella of accreditation. It takes the cooperation of all entities to provide an effective and efficient route to second careers for retiring Thoroughbred racehorses.

Despite these many routes to second careers, one question remains that no one can fully answer: what does aftercare cost?

Thoroughbred Makeover Data

While not a rehoming organization, the RRP nonetheless plays an important part in Thoroughbred aftercare, with programming, services and educational materials all developed to increase demand for horses beyond racing. The RRP also collects data when horses are registered annually for its Thoroughbred Makeover retraining competition, offering critical insight into an industry where this kind of information can be hard to come by:

■ **Money invested into the care of horses.** Trainers for the 2024 Thoroughbred Makeover reported an average monthly spend on care, rehabilitation and training of \$1,139; in total, the entire class of 2024 invested just over \$5 million into the care of Makeover horses in their first year of life after racing.

■ **Acquisition conditions.** Keeping in mind that the Thoroughbred Makeover requires that horses must have raced or recorded a timed work in the previous two years, and cannot begin retraining until Dec. 1 of the prior year, trainers tend to source horses ready to step into second careers. That said, 11 percent of the class of 2024 was acquired either in the process of rehabilitating an injury incurred during racing, or with rehabilitation needed.

■ **How horses are sourced.** About half of the Makeover class of 2024 was sourced directly from racing connections, via listing agents or through personal networks. Twenty-five percent came through a reseller, defined as any intermediate owner between the Makeover trainer and the racing owner, and 19 percent were sourced from non-profit aftercare facilities. An additional 6 percent is still owned by racing connections.

Costs for Aftercare Business

Now that we have an idea of how the Thoroughbred Makeover class moves into second careers and some of the associated cost and investment made into those horses, we can take a deeper dive into the reality of the costs for both non-profit organizations and aftercare-based businesses.

For various reasons, racing connections may choose to route their horses to second careers through a for-profit busi-



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Horses at MidAtlantic Horse Rescue enjoy as much time turned out as possible.

ness or individual; as we learned earlier with Makeover stats, a majority of horses sourced for the retraining competition come through resellers or direct listing agents. Jessica Redman is one such reseller, buying and selling prospects lightly restarted off the track from her Benchmark Sport Horses in Camden, Del.

Redman asks higher purchase prices (from \$3,000 to \$7,000 or higher for exceptional horses) than what buyers might pay in adoption fees from a non-profit organization. On average, she spends between \$1,500 and \$4,500 to acquire horses directly from their connections. With decades of experience in the non-profit and business spheres, Redman has developed a selective eye when assessing horses, and can pick and choose what she wants to purchase for resale.

"I know what's going to pass a vetting, and I can look at lamenesses and race records," she said. Due to her higher asking prices, most of her horses are vetted by prospective buyers, typically including flexions and X-rays, covered by the buyers. "It's so rare that we find a major surprise during one of those vettings – most of what we find is going to be pretty minor, and if one buyer passes, another is usually waiting in the wings."

Redman does still find the occasional unanticipated rehab case, and references a recent \$3,800 surgery on a horse. "I didn't get a great feeling watching this horse move around and got X-rays done," she said. "That's the kind of stuff I learn by experience, though. That issue will never make it as far as a buyer vetting. I maybe get one or two a year that end up needing a surgery or rehab."

Chip removal is a fairly common surgery that typically has a good prognosis for long-term soundness (depending on the individual case, of course). The cost of the procedure and rehab time usually means that she will, at best, break even on that horse.

On average, horses are in Redman's program for about a month, during which she invests in hoof care and dental care running about \$200 per horse. She also estimates an average of \$500 in feed per horse per month, depending on the condition in which the horse came. She usually has 16 to 20 horses on her property, and sells around 175 a year.

"It's impossible to budget for the surgeries or rehab cases, because you don't know they're coming," Redman said. "The proceeds from one horse's sale might go to support another one that stays longer or needs a procedure with extended care."

“All of the intake procedures – the vet, farrier, dental and chiropractic – set these horses up for their best chance of success in a second career. It all comes at a cost, though.”

– *Bev Strauss,*
MidAtlantic Horse Rescue

I run the business in such a way that I have money for the unexpected.”

Costs for Non-Profit Organizations

MidAtlantic Horse Rescue has been a cornerstone of Thoroughbred aftercare in the region, forming in 2002 initially to help Thoroughbreds who had found themselves in kill pens and low-level auctions post-racing. While MAHR still occasionally gets horses from these situations, the vast majority of their intakes now come directly from racing connections who utilize the organization to transition horses into new careers. “We usually have 90 to 100 horses in the program at any time,” said co-founder and executive director Beverly Strauss. “There’s a constant turnover – we adopt out about 110 horses each year.”

At minimum – before factoring in the veterinary evaluation and necessary records updates, including outstanding shots and Coggins tests, as well as dental work, a farrier visit, and chiropractic work, all at the point of intake for a new horse in the program – the organization spends about \$325 per month per horse in feed. That includes two grain meals a day and hay as needed; MAHR keeps horses on turnout as much as possible and maintains grass pastures for three seasons of grazing. “All of the intake procedures – the vet, farrier, dental and chiropractic – set these horses up for their

best chance of success in a second career,” Strauss said. “It all comes at a cost, though.”

MAHR typically keeps a horse for a minimum of two or three months to really get to know a horse and determine where second career talents may lead. That means enlisting the services of a professional trainer to assess and evaluate horses and bring them along with light restarting to be able to make good matches with adopters. “Staff salaries are another piece of the overhead,” Strauss said. “Our rent is a symbolic dollar per month, but we had to invest hundreds of thousands in the property itself.”

A horse coming off the track with an injury can accrue \$4,000 or more right at the outset in veterinary care, and depending on the injury, there may be no guarantee of athletic potential or even basic soundness. These rehab cases also spend more time at the MAHR facility: a bowed tendon typically has a decent prognosis for an athletic second career, but needs a minimum of a year on the bills. A fractured sesamoid has a bleaker future: “You never know how they’ll turn out,” Strauss said, “and you won’t know if they’re going to be sound until you get them back into work.”

MAHR’s typical adoption fees start around \$2,000 to \$2,500 for a sound riding horse; a truly exceptional athlete with upper-level potential may command \$3,500. “The adoption fees for sound horses generally recoup what goes into them,” said Strauss. “They also help support the ones who need more time to rehab physically or mentally, as well as support our pasture pets.”

Strauss defined a “pasture pet” as a horse that is not sound for riding but is pasture sound without maintenance medication or shoes. The demand for this population is far lower than that for sound, rideable horses. MAHR adopts out pasture pets for \$1 with a contract stating that the horse will return to the organization if he or she ever needs a new home.

“We ship the pasture pets ourselves to their adoptive homes,” Strauss said. “So we end up spending more money to place them, but it does get them off of our feed bill and into a good home where they’ll get extra attention and love. We’ve had some of our pasture pets for 10 years at this point, and I don’t imagine they’re going to go anywhere.”

In addition to adoption fees, Strauss credits the annual Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance grant, as well as grants from Thoroughbred Charities of America, as critical sources of funding. MAHR is also funded to a lesser extent by direct donations and smaller grants, and hosts fundraising events throughout the year as well. Support from Delaware Park – MAHR partners with CANTER Delaware to list horses from that track directly for connections – provides some support,

but the system created by Beyond the Wire has been particularly impactful.

Operating at Laurel Park and Pimlico, Beyond the Wire serves as a bridge between Maryland horseman and regional TAA-accredited organizations, ensuring efficient aftercare for horses in need of retirement. When a trainer or owner contacts Beyond the Wire with a horse ready to retire, executive director Jessica Hammond gets to work, evaluating the horse with a vet and reaching out to her network of eight organizations, most on the East Coast. Key for this program, a stipend from Beyond the Wire accompanies each horse to its aftercare organization to help support its care through adoption.

"We send about \$2,000 for a sound horse, and \$4,000 for a pasture pet," said Hammond. "Horses that might need some duration of rehab will come with funding somewhere in between."

That funding comes from a range of sources, including contributions from Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. The Laurel Park jockey colony also contributes with its own takeouts per start. "In Maryland, owners now pay a mandatory \$16 per start directly to Beyond the Wire," said Hammond. "There's also an option for owners to contribute 1.5 percent of each claim fee, but they can choose to opt out."

While the now-mandatory payout is a great start, it actually only amounts to a few hundred dollars per horse per year, depending on starts – often not enough to cover shipping from the track to the aftercare facility, which is an expense Beyond the Wire covers. "In the past, some of these horses cost the aftercare program up to \$10,000 if they needed surgery, after which they also need rehabilitation time," Hammond said. "We don't fund those surgeries anymore because we are losing a major funding source with Maryland's industry changes, and it's just too big of an expense. We are happy that the entire industry is involved in aftercare here, but more money, and horses retiring sound, would be extremely helpful to the equine population."

The collective experiences of MAHR and Beyond the Wire illustrate one of the hardest truths in Thoroughbred aftercare: injuries often force the retirement of racehorses, and the treatment of those injuries is not only expensive for the aftercare organization that may take that horse on, but also may limit potential for a second career and possible adoption. Other than donating funds to organizations such as these, the single best thing racing connections can do is retire horses sound. ■

Kristen Kovatch Bentley is the communications manager for the Retired Racehorse Project. For more see, therrp.org.





**4,710 HORSES DIRECTLY IMPACTED
BY THE THOROUGHBRED MAKEOVER
SINCE 2013**

**THE RRP IS INCREASING DEMAND
FOR THOROUGHBREDS
BEYOND RACING**



LEARN MORE
therrp.org/impact

— Trackside: Parx Racing —

Bear Trap

THORPEDO ANNA DODGES DEFEAT AS SEIZE THE GREY RULES PA DERBY

By Paul Halloran ■ Photographs by Equi-Photo, Inc.

A filly known as the “Grizzly Bear” was supposed to be the star of the show, but it’s hard to outdo “The Coach.”

That was the main takeaway from Pennsylvania Derby Day at Parx Racing Sept. 21, with notable subplots including another command performance by the best marathon dirt horse in the country (world?) and homebreds running amok in the undercard stakes races.

Thorpedo Anna, coming off a heartbreaking loss to Fierceness in the Travers Stakes-G1 at Saratoga, looked like a lock in the Cotillion-G1 and was bet accordingly, going off at 1-10 odds. Trainer Ken McPeck admittedly didn’t have her cranked 100 percent and she was just good enough to catch longshot Gun Song and win by a neck.

One race later, the Pennsylvania Derby-G1 was a much more wide-open affair, at least on paper, but not if you had checked in with Seize the Grey’s trainer, 89-year-young D. Wayne Lukas. When it was suggested to Lukas the day before the race that it looked like his Preakness Stakes-G1 winner would go to the lead, he called his shot.

“If he does, he’s going to be very tough to beat,” Lukas said.

Score one for the wisdom of age.

Jaime Torres did indeed send Seize the Grey to the front, and he led the other 10 horses on a merry chase around the Bensalem, Pa., oval, winning by $3\frac{3}{4}$ lengths and setting off a celebration that perhaps Parx, or any track for that matter, has never seen. More than 100 MyRacehorse partners descended on the winner’s circle and, when they couldn’t fit, they moved onto the track for the win photo.

“After the Preakness, it felt like an amazing moment and I was appreciative of it,” said Michael Behrens, founder and CEO of MyRacehorse, who brought the Preakness trophy to Parx. “I know lightning doesn’t strike more than once, but today it did and it’s starting to exceed expectations now.”

With Seize the Grey coming off two sub-par efforts – seventh in the Belmont Stakes-G1 and fourth in the Jim Dandy-G2, both at Saratoga – there were plenty who thought his Pat Day Mile-G2 and Preakness efforts may have been the exception. Lukas wasn’t one of them.

“The thing about him is that after the debacle in Saratoga he trained brilliantly ever since,” he said. “It never changed. He was really sharp every day. This is very gratifying. I was very confident. I have been that confident with him three times and all three times he won.”

Seize the Grey, a son of Arrogate who sold for \$300,000 as a yearling at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale, outran longshot Just Step On It to lead by a half-length through a quarter-mile in :23.89 and a half in :49.25. Second choice Unmatched Wisdom picked up the chase entering the far turn, with Santa Anita Derby-G1 winner Stronghold advancing on the outside and favorite Dragoon Guard making his move on the rail. Stronghold became the main threat, pulling even off the turn with every chance to go by, but Seize the Grey repelled the bid and pulled away late in the stretch.

“I didn’t expect to get the lead that easy,” Torres said. “He gave me the same feeling as the Preakness, the way he was moving and his ears. He was comfortable in there and I knew I was going to have a lot of horse at the end.”



Seize the Grey and Jaime Torres reach the finish with a Grade 1 win in the Pennsylvania Derby.

Stronghold finished second by a head over Dragoon Guard. Seize the Grey paid \$10.60 to win while improving his career record to 13-5-0-3 with \$2,415,938 earned.

In the Cotillion, the combination of McPeck not tightening the screws all the way, an 18-point regression off a career-best Beyer Speed Figure, and an uncomfortable trip almost got Thorpedo Anna beat.

Almost, but not quite.

Brian Hernandez Jr. and Thorpedo Anna found themselves boxed in down the backstretch, chasing Mystic Lake, ridden by Hall of Famer Mike Smith, and Gun Song with

fellow Hall of Famer John Velazquez aboard. Much like he did on rail-skimming Mystik Dan in the Kentucky Derby-G1, Hernandez made a winning move turning for home, this time going outside the two frontrunners with a closing Tarifa right on his flank.

When the real running commenced, Thorpedo Anna had Gun Song to catch and that proved to be no easy task, but she took the lead inside the sixteenth pole and held on for the neck win.

"A win is a win," McPeck said. "I'm going to take it. I'm not complaining. Good ones overcome everything. She is head



Thorpedo Anna digs in late to get past Black-Eyed Susan Stakes winner Gun Song in the Grade 1 Cotillion.

“I know lightning doesn’t strike more than once, but today it did and it’s starting to exceed expectations now.”

– Michael Behrens, founder and CEO of MyRacehorse, about Seize the Grey’s wins in the Preakness and Pennsylvania Derby

over heels above the 3-year-old fillies and as long as we didn’t have anything real silly happen – and we almost did – I felt really confident.”

McPeck discounted a bounce off the monster Travers effort, but Hernandez wasn’t so sure.

“That’s always in the back of your mind, especially with 3-year-old fillies,” he said. “You have to expect them to regress a little bit. She ran so hard there against the boys in the Travers. And that was our biggest worry today. We knew she was the best horse in the race by far, but at the same time, coming off as such a big effort last time, a 111 Beyer, I was a little worried that she’d regress a little bit. She only had two works between this race and the Travers. But what really impressed me today was when she finally got her seam at the head of the lane and she took off. She had the will to win, and she just showed all her heart from that point on.”

The graded stakes portion of the card kicked off with the Grade 3 Greenwood Cup, which surprisingly drew a field of 10 (scratched down to nine), considering defending champion Next came in with six consecutive wins by an average



Next looks for competition – there was none – after dominating the Grade 3 Greenwood Cup for the second straight year.

of 14 lengths. Maybe the second-place purse of \$36,000 was the attraction, because it was pretty much a given that Next would be taking home the \$108,000 winner's share.

Next – foaled on the same day as 2023 Horse of the Year Cody's Wish, May 3, 2018 – sat off the pace set by Ridin With Biden, the 2022 Greenwood winner. Luan Machado chose to take the lead heading into the far turn of the 1½-mile race and from there the only question was the winning margin.

Watching on a clubhouse TV, owner Michael Foster, who claimed Next for \$62,500 in April 2022 at Keeneland, exhorted his horse and jockey, but the Parx regulars knew he had nothing to worry about.

"Bye-bye, good night," one shouted before the horses even entered the stretch. "The white horse is going to win by 10 lengths."

Who needs Equibase; he was exactly right.

Pennsylvania-breds get chance to shine

The Alphabet Soup was the first of four Pennsylvania-bred stakes on the undercard and the winner was Ascoli Piceno

Stables' Crisper. Deanna Manfredi bred and owns the horse, whom she became attached to on her Kennett Square farm.

"He was one of my pandemic babies," Manfredi said of the gelding by Tapiture, foaled on March 27, 2019, by her Leroidesanimaux (Brz) mare Je Suis Enchantee. "When he was a yearling, I was stuck on my farm with him and one other yearling filly I had that year. I got particularly close to him because I was locked down with him for about six months. So we're quite close."

Manfredi, who holds a master's and Ph.D. from Princeton, was animated in rooting on her equine friend, who closed from sixth after a half-mile over the firm turf course and went by Fierce and Strong to win by a half-length under Julio Hernandez as the 2.80-1 favorite in the field of eight.

"That was very exciting," Manfredi said. "I didn't think he was going to get there. I was screaming louder than I intended to."

Manfredi also bred multiple stakes-placed Je Suis Enchantee, second in the Penn Oaks in 2014. She sent the mare to Tapiture for practical reasons.

“So that decision was made just by nicking her,” she said. “I would love to go to Tapit, but I’m not going to afford that. They had a good price on him, and they liked the mare. She was a nice little runner herself. They gave me a good deal on him, and I got Crisper, and it was a good decision.”

Manfredi, whose father Richard was a breeder, owner and trainer, has been breeding for 21 years and sits on the board of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association. Crisper won the Alphabet Soup in his third attempt, after running third in 2022 and sixth last year.

“Persistence,” Manfredi said. “He’s maturing. He’s a very small horse, and you wouldn’t think he would be a grass horse. He’s got the little, tiny feet, and he’s a little tiny, lightweight guy. You wouldn’t guess turf with him, but he is just a much

better horse on the turf. He really dug in. He’s got a lot of courage. He’s a cardiac kid. I love it.”

Trained at Fair Hill Training Center by Tim Woolley, Crisper won for the fifth time in 21 lifetime starts while pushing his career bankroll to \$283,126. The Alphabet Soup was his third consecutive win, and second in a stakes, following the Summer Fun at Penn National Aug. 30.

If you’re wondering about the most visually impressive performance of Pennsylvania Derby Day, it was turned in by The Boy’s Warrior in the Whistle Pig Stakes for state-bred and -sired 2-year-olds. Breaking from the far outside in the six-horse field, the Warrior’s Reward LLC homebred, by their sire of the same name, took the lead at the quarter pole and hit the wire 9 lengths in front of Reelin N Dealin. It was his second win in two starts.

Parx Racing turns 50 years old

By Anthony Affrunti

Happy birthday Parx Racing. And it’s a big one. This year marks the 50th year of racing at the track in the Philadelphia suburb of Bensalem, Pa.

In 1974 – two years before Rocky Balboa became a Philly icon – Keystone Park was born.

The place has gone through several names before it became known as Parx, home to year-round racing and an annual dose of the big time with twin Grade 1 stakes for 3-year-olds – the Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion.

Philadelphia-born trainer Robert “Butch” Reid Jr. remembers the early days.

“I was actually there that first year,” Reid said. “My brother Mark had just begun training. He was training at the old Liberty Bell, and he moved over to Keystone as it was known the first year. I was just getting out of high school and in college and I was there walking horses and rubbing horses with my brother. I’ve been around, off and on, for pretty much the whole run of the track.”

Reid ventured away for other spots, but always found his way back home.

“It’s been an amazing ride for better or for worse,” he said. “I’ve come and gone several times. We did Monmouth for a

few years, and we’ve tried everywhere but we always end up back at the ‘Stone.’ It’s been a good home base. It’s been very good to us, that’s for sure.”

In early December 1972, the Pennsylvania Racing Commission granted approval to the Continental Racing Association and Eagle Downs Racing Association to begin construction on the first major Thoroughbred track in the state called Neshaminy Park, amid 400-acres in Bensalem Township.

Both groups had leased the nearby Liberty Bell Park since being granted racing licenses in 1969. Liberty Bell was primarily a harness track, but the longterm goal of both racing associations was to secure their own facility.

Under Pat Rooney, the son of Art Rooney, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and several racetracks, the Continental Racing Association secured the financial arrangements to meet the \$30 million needed to build the new endeavor. Many questioned why the area needed a new racetrack while others thought Western Pennsylvania might be a better location.

The elder Rooney said that Pittsburgh never was a racing town and that Philadelphia was one of the best racing cities in the world due to its close proximity to New Jersey and

Tim Girtten, asked if he expected that dominating a performance, did not provide a trainer-speak answer.

"Yes," he said, without hesitation. "We sent him over here [from Presque Isle Downs] almost two weeks ago to gallop over the track. I drove down last Friday from Erie to watch him breeze over the track. Frankie [Pennington] worked him and he got a hold of the track beautifully [5 furlongs in 1:01.98] so we answered the question if he liked dirt or not. He's a very nice animal. He's going to run on anything, and he's going to go any distance."

Pewter Stable homebred Honorable Win came from 6 lengths behind in the stretch to win the Miss Blue Tye Dye for state-bred and -sired 2-year-old fillies in her debut. Trained by Kate Demasi and ridden by Silvestre Gonzales, the daughter of Winchill wore down Tudox Dahlia, who held for second.

"She's been super professional, and it's amazing how much she's grown all summer," Demasi said. "I had her training over at Monmouth and she was doing everything right, so just everything fell into place. I'm super happy for her. We have the mare. Well, actually, we just sold the mare [Honorable Partner]. That'll be good for the new connections. This whole family line has been really super for us."

When Bernie Houghton ships in from Penn National, it's always a good idea to pay attention, and that trend continued when Foxy Junior won the Plum Pretty Stakes.

"She matured this year," the trainer said of Dianne Stern's 4-year-old homebred. "She was a little bit of a handful in her younger years, but as she got older this year, she just came around. We gave her time off and after that last race [fourth in the Princess of Sylmar Stakes at Presque Isle July 29], we

Delaware. He felt that Philadelphians were known to be much more affluent and was quoted in local newspapers saying, "One bettor from Philadelphia is worth four from Maryland."

Plenty of work behind the scenes in political and architectural circles continued as did the construction on the once-vacant land with a target opening in the beginning of November 1974. Many doubted that the new track would open, but John J. Finley, president of Eagle Downs, promised a functional plant.

"It will be a good-looking track with plenty of room for the fans," Finley told local newspapers.

After a survey found that many had trouble both spelling or pronouncing the word Neshaminy, and to further avoid confusion with other local businesses such as the nearby mall which would share the name, the racing associations agreed that the new racetrack would instead be called Keystone Park to honor the state's nickname.

Hard economic times led to speculation that the racetrack would be a tough sell to the \$2 bettor as parking, lunch, admission and a racing program would leave the racegoer \$10 short before the first race even ran. To circumvent this, track management listed \$1 admission coupons in all local newspapers as well as a package with admission, parking and a program for \$2.50.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1974, Keystone Park opened under clear skies with a post time of 12:30 p.m. and a nine-race card. A crowd of 14,248 turned out and found betting windows, ample seating, plenty of parking and a heated, glass-enclosed structure for the winter that would also offer air-conditioning during the summer.

A \$3,000 claiming race saw the 3-year-old gelding Motto close under Calvin Stone to win the opener by $\frac{4}{4}$ lengths going away in 1:23 $\frac{3}{4}$ for 7 furlongs. Total handle on the race was \$51,153 and those with win tickets received \$4.80 on a \$2 bet.

Since that first day's total handle \$1,237,868, thousands of races and billions of dollars have been won and wagered at the track. A second name change was announced in 1984 when Keystone gave way to Philadelphia Park, before a third change to Parx Racing in 2010.

Asked for his most memorable victory at the track he calls home, Reid instead looked to the future.

"It's always been the PA Derby for me," he said. "We tried it a couple of times, but that's one race I'd like to win. We had run second in the Cotillion a couple of years ago with Morning Matcha [2022]. We certainly won our share of the PA-bred stakes over the last couple of years, but I don't think there's one race that kind of jumps out at me over the years."

Fellow trainer Lou Linder Jr. also remembers the first year at Keystone while working with his father

"I got my license in 1977," Linder said. "I remember coming here with my dad. There were two outfits that were allowed to come in early and unload their horses, J.R. Cowden and Ron Glorioso, who since passed. They were allowed in that first day but the next day when everybody was allowed, we were the third van in.

"I know that there are some grooms that I've known for 50 years but I really don't know their name. I just know them from here. When it was Keystone, it was a pretty basic back then, it was bare bones, but the racing was good." ■



Third time's a charm as Crisper prevails in the Alphabet Soup, the only race run on the turf on the card.



The 2-year-old Winchill filly Honorable Win returns a stakes winner of the Miss Blue Tye Dye in her debut.



The Boy's Warrior, a son of Warrior's Reward, powers to a 9-length victory in the Whistle Pig for 2-year-olds.



Foxy Junior gears down late while winning the Plum Pretty, her fourth win in five 2024 starts.

decided to give her the two months off and get her prepared for this race, and that's what I did."

Good plan.

PARX PICKS: After the fatal breakdown of Freedom Eagle in the Alphabet Soup, track management moved the Grade 3 Turf Monster to the dirt, resulting in a five-horse field, all Pennsylvania-breds. Trainer Butch Reid won the race with Smooth B, a 9-year-old son of Weigelia, who went over the \$1-million-mark in career earnings with his 12th win. . . Favored Anabam broke down in the Miss Blue Tye Dye Stakes

and was later euthanized. . . Jose D'Angelo was the only trainer to win two races on the card, taking the first with maiden Sherman Fury and the Grade 2 Gallant Bob with Bentornato. Irad Ortiz Jr., who rode three winners, was on both. . . The last race, the Parx Sprint Stakes, went off at 7:19 p.m., 20 minutes after sunset. It wasn't quite like the overnight training scene in *Seabiscuit*, but it wasn't far off. . . Every race on the card had a purse of at least \$100,000. . . The overall handle for the 14-race card (11 stakes) was \$16,007,617, down about \$1 million from last year's card, run on a day when three East Coast tracks canceled due to heavy rains. ■

EQUINE DISCOUNTS

Exclusive Savings for the Horse World!



As a member of NTRA,
you are eligible for these discounts

Call 866-678-4289 to start saving!
EquineDiscounts.com



@myequinediscounts

World Beater

WELL-TRAVELED PASCALINE SHINES IN LAUREL FUTURITY VICTORY

By Joe Clancy ■ Photographs by Jim McCue

Tom Bellhouse laughed before he ran through the particulars of 2-year-old colt Pascaline, who won the Laurel Futurity at Laurel Park Sept. 28.

“It’s a run-of-the-mill story, you probably get a lot of these,” the West Point Thoroughbreds executive vice president deadpanned about a West Virginia-bred purchased from an Irish consignor in England and sent to a French trainer in Maryland.

Keeping up?

Bred by Mountain State Thoroughbred stalwart Jim Miller, Pascaline went to Keeneland November as a weanling in 2022 and failed to meet his reserve. The full-brother to multiple West Virginia stakes winner Social Chic went back to Keeneland as a yearling and brought \$40,000 on a bid by Matt Whyte’s Bushypark Stables. An Irish-based 2-year-old pinhooker, Whyte took the son of Upstart to England’s Tattersalls Craven breeze-up sale in April. There, South Carolina-based agent and Tattersalls regular Kip Elser spotted the bay colt and called West Point president and CEO Terry Finley.

“Terry has said for a while, ‘If you see something, call me,’ and I did,” Elser said. “The horse went around the horn and there’s always a story. He’d been a moderately priced yearling for a good judge, and he improved over the winter. He was not quite a finished article [at the sale], but I liked him.”

Just like at an American 2-year-old sale, the horses are breezed beforehand. In addition to the testing Rowley Mile turf strip at Newmarket Racecourse, this year’s sale made horses navigate high winds, hail and torrential rain at various points during the breeze-ups. Pascaline’s video shows a green,

leggy colt going through his paces with a long stride on a not-so-straight line. The time is not shown.

For several years, Whyte has made the trek to Kentucky to scout yearling prospects for his operation based near The Curragh training center in County Kildare. Consigned by Machmer Hall Sales, Pascaline matched the goal of finding a horse who might appeal to European and/or Middle Eastern buyers the following spring.

“He was a standout,” Whyte said. “As we say, he had a typical European walk.”

Machmer Hall’s Carrie Brogden recognized Whyte’s interest and told him, “It’s the walk that’s doing it for you, isn’t it?” It was. Whyte bid the \$40,000 to outrun a few other European scouts, and Pascaline was on a plane across the Atlantic. He flourished in his new home, until he didn’t.

“He showed us loads of pace, but for some reason about a month before the breeze-ups he lost his gears,” Whyte said. “He just started to grow and started to grow and at that stage I couldn’t do anything about it, and I had to leave him be. He was a young horse; he needed more time to develop.”

Elser saw that, made the \$84,943 purchase and Pascaline got back on an airplane. Had the colt stayed on the initial trajectory, the price tag may have been considerably more. Frustrated by the timing, Whyte is nevertheless thrilled for the horse and the connections.

“He didn’t make me up, but at the same time my job is to keep trading in horses and now look at him, the rest is history,” Whyte said. “It looks like they’ve given him time to develop, and they’ve got a nice horse.”



West Virginia-bred 2-year-old Pascaline heads to victory in the Laurel Futurity.

The American yearling market works for Whyte, who was headed to the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October sale after missing Keeneland September this year.

“We love going over there,” he said. “We’re getting a lovely type of a horse. You can’t beat the physical strength, but the flip side is sometimes you need that extra little bit of time to get there.”

Pascaline made the most of it.

West Point, which added Jimmy Kahig Racing, CJ Stables and Edwin Barker as partners on the ownership line, sent him to trainer Arnaud Delacour at Fair Hill Training Center and the Frenchman dialed up an August debut at Colonial Downs. Going 6½ furlongs on the dirt, Pascaline survived a rough trip to fight past even-money favorite Montador by 1¾ lengths. Another West Point runner, Start to Win, finished fifth.

Many of the owners watched on a clubhouse television at Saratoga Race Course.

“It was Travers Day,” Bellhouse said. “He got shut off, bumped in, bumped out, and then lo and behold he passes horses on the inside. Half the people had the other horse and were upset and half had that horse and were excited.”

Delacour continued to give good reports and was thinking about a race at Keeneland before seeing the weather forecast and staying local for the Laurel Futurity. Scheduled for the turf, the \$150,000 stakes wound up a dirt race due to rain from the remnants of Hurricane Helene. Pascaline drew in off the main-track-only list and handled eight others going a mile. The winner stalked Notmyfirstrodeo and Kitty’s Son early, advanced to second after 6 furlongs in 1:13.71, built a quick 2-length lead for jockey Victor Carrasco in the stretch and scored by that margin over favorite Studlydoright with Just a Fair Shake third.

“Arnaud kept saying the horse was OK and he looked a winner every step of the race,” said Bellhouse. “He was super

“If you think you’ve got it all figured out, guess what? You don’t. It’s been fun, been a good run. I’ve had a lot of really good horses over the years and I’m very happy with that.”

—Breeder *Jim Miller*

professional, and it’s just a thrill for us and our partners. We’re old enough to remember the Laurel Futurity being THE race. It’s a race Secretariat won. Who knows where he fits, but everybody involved with him is thrilled.”

At first Miller, the horse’s breeder, was disappointed when Pascaline sold to an Irish buyer – West Virginia-breds don’t generate breeders’ awards overseas after all – but happy to see him show up on the Fair Hill breeze list this spring.

“I might have bought him back had I known, but then I saw he was back at Fair Hill and working so I figured he was in good hands,” Miller said. “He was a good-sized horse and a little bit high strung as a young horse. Nothing horrible, but that mare tends to throw fairly calm horses and he was a little less calm than some of the others.”

Miller raced Pascaline’s dam Tres Chic, a daughter of Harlan’s Holiday bred in Kentucky by Fox Hill Farms, after claiming her for \$4,500 out of her third and final lifetime win in April 2012. In 11 starts for Miller, she finished second twice. As a broodmare, she has produced four winners from five foals to race. Social Chic, a 6-year-old gelding also by Upstart, has won a dozen races and earned \$436,538 (through Oct. 11). Miller thought Airdrie Stud stallion Upstart fit his mare, and has been proven right twice.

“He’s a beautiful horse, and he has that toughness,” Miller said of the son of Flatter. “Tres Chic isn’t that big. She had a lot of breeding behind her, she’s from an old Claiborne family, but wasn’t much of a racehorse. I’ve always been a fan of Flatter – because of the size and the toughness. Tres Chic was a bit small, 15-2, but very wide and muscular. The Upstart gave her more size and length.”

Pascaline’s third dam, Oath, was bred by Seth Hancock’s Cherry Valley Farm and won a Grade 1 as a 2-year-old in 1996. The half-sister to Grade 1 winner and champion War Pass sold for \$2.7 million as a broodmare in foal to Storm Cat in 1998 and produced three winners. Tres Chic’s dam Safely lost all three starts, but produced four winners.

As part of a downsizing of his stable, Miller sold Tres Chic, in foal to Upstart, for \$20,000 at Keeneland November in 2022. He owns three mares himself, is a partner in some others and has turned over much of the farm management to trainer Anthony Farrior. Miller shares most of his racehorses with Farrior clients Ultra Championship Racing or Rick Burnsworth now, but had high hopes for a Blame filly out of the graded stakes-placed Honey Chile and some others.

Miller got into racing through his uncle, Norman Haymaker, a trainer who started two horses in the Kentucky Derby in the late 1950s, and has been represented by multiple Grade 3 winner Aurelia’s Belle as an owner and a slew of success stories as a breeder, including Grade 2 winner and stallion Race Day, Grade 1-placed Gouverneur Morris, multiple stakes winners Harlan’s Destiny, Twirling Owen, Run to Daylight and others.

“If you think you’ve got it all figured out, guess what? You don’t,” Miller said about the Thoroughbred game. “It’s been fun, been a good run. I’ve had a lot of really good horses over the years and I’m very happy with that. The breeding is fun to see the babies and it’s more of a family affair. Racing proves them out. It’s sad to see them sell sometimes, but I’m glad when they do well.”

Looking at Laurel

Like the rest of the region, Laurel labored through a rainy spell in September, which washed away turf racing for an extended period. The Selima, for 2-year-old fillies, shared the Sept. 28 card with the Laurel Futurity and wound up on the dirt with a field of six. **Pure Majestic** led from the start to score by 1¼ lengths for No Guts No Glory Farm and trainer Jerry Robb. Jevian Toledo rode the winner, a Kentucky-bred daughter of Tapit purchased for \$100,000 at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky’s yearling sale . . . The Japan Turf Cup wound up the Japan Dirt Cup, and went to California shipper **Dean Martini** for owner David Bernsen and trainer Peter Eurton. Toledo rode the winner, a 7-year-old Kentucky-bred son of Cairo Prince, who scored by 6½ lengths in 2:04.94 for 1¼ miles in his first trip to Maryland in 37 starts. . . Out-of-towners ruled two stakes on the Sept. 22 card too as Irish Three Racing’s **Irish Maxima** won the Weather Vane for Parx Racing-based John Servis, and Amo Racing USA’s **Miss New York** landed



Pure Majestic scores in the Selima Stakes.



Irish Maxima heads for home in the Weather Vane.



Post Time returns to Maryland with a big win in the Polynesian.



JEFFREY SNYDER

No Show Sammy Jo adds the All Along to her winning streak.

the Twixt for Monmouth Park-based Jorge Delgado. That 4-year-old daughter of Good Magic won a Laurel allowance a month earlier . . . On the turf Sept. 14, Bridlewood Farm and Madaket Stables runner **No Show Sammy Jo** (GB) lived up to her heavy favoritism while winning the All Along Stakes for trainer Graham Motion. It was her third win in as many starts this year and fourth consecutive after finishing fourth in her May 23, 2023, debut . . . Waterville Lake Stables homebred **Loon Cry** shipped in from New York to win the Sensible Lady Turf Dash for trainer Christophe Clement. The New York-bred daughter of More Than Ready also won for the third consecutive time after taking two races at Woodbine . . .

Trainer Brittany Russell won with all four starters on the Sept. 29 card. Two weeks earlier her stable star **Post Time** made his first start in Maryland since February and dominated the Polynesian Stakes by 11½ lengths for Hillwood Stable and jockey Sheldon Russell. Bred in Maryland by Dr. and Mrs. Tom Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and Milton Higgins III, the son of Frosted improved to 8-for-8 in his home state while winning for the ninth time in 13 starts and pushing his career earnings to \$997,910. In his three starts leading up to the Polynesian he placed in the Westchester-G3, Metropolitan Handicap-G1 and Whitney-G1 in New York. ■

No Place Like Home

SUCCESS AT DELAWARE POWERS STRONG YEAR FOR RUNNYMOORE

By Ali Çetinok ■ Photographs by Hoofprints, Inc.

For Greg and Caroline Bentley of Runnymoore Racing, success at Delaware Park is more than just victories on the track – it's a homecoming. As the leading owners at Delaware by purses this year, with earnings of \$532,126, the Bentleys' journey has been deeply intertwined with a return to their roots.

Greg grew up within earshot of Delaware Park, where the calls of the races filled the air. Now, he and his wife, Caroline, are leading one of the most successful racing operations in the region from their home base at Runnymede Farm outside Coatesville, Pa.

"I grew up right next to Delaware Park," he said. "My father was a mechanical engineer from DuPont Company, and we lived in housing developments that literally overlooked Delaware Park. On certain days, we could hear the races being called from our house."

Despite being so close to the action, the Bentleys didn't attend regularly.

"We went to Delaware Park once for the Scottish Games," Greg said. "But it was an important institution in our neighborhood, and I'm particularly glad to be back there now."

Caroline shares a similar connection to the sport, though her love for racing grew from time spent with her father.

"My father loved horse racing," she said. "He loved to handicap, and back in the day, there would be races on Saturdays on the network. My dad would get the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in the morning and handicap every race. I would sit with him, and of course, we'd lose, but he loved it."

Those early memories laid the foundation for her love of racing, and it's something she's carried with her as

Runnymoore evolved from a steeplechase-focused operation into a formidable presence in the world of Thoroughbred racing with a broodmare band and a racing operation that has produced 32 wins and in excess of \$1.4 million from 160 starts (through Oct. 20) this year.

"One of the things we love about Delaware Park," Caroline said, "is it's really a kid-friendly place. It's a great atmosphere to bring family and friends."

Delaware Park is a 45-minute drive from the Bentleys' home, and their participation there included 10 wins and 29 top-three finishes in 48 starts. A sense of community has been an essential part of why the Bentleys focused so much of their racing efforts at the track. The Delaware Certified Thoroughbred Program, which incentivizes local breeding and training, has been an essential part of their strategy.

"We make sure all of our horses are Delaware-certified," Greg said. "It's a great program that rewards local connections, and we've had a lot of success with it."

Runnymoore Racing's origins are rooted in steeplechasing, where the Bentleys first found their footing as Chester County residents entrenched in that part of Thoroughbred racing. Their first horse, Stop and Listen, won a maiden hurdle at the Fair Hill Races in 1995. As Greg put it, he was hooked from there.

"I was amazed when they told me we'd won a \$10,000 purse," he said. "I hadn't expected it – I thought it was more like a point-to-point race."

An eventual stakes winner for the couple, Stop and Listen began such standouts as Clearance Code, who won the Royal Chase-G1 at Keeneland in 1998, timber horse Rainbows for



Runnymore Racing homebred Late Frost scored at Delaware in late September after a stakes-placing earlier in the summer.

Luck and others. The racing stable evolved to flat horses and the purchase of the historic Runnymede property, and paid early dividends when Hardest Core (racing in the name of their son Andrew) won the 2014 Arlington Million-G1 and started in the Breeders' Cup Turf-G1. Next came a fleet of broodmares, well-bred young horses, a barn at Fair Hill Training Center, 2019 Preakness Stakes-G1 starter Always-mining and an ever-diversifying racing stable spread among several trainers.

The Bentleys hired veteran horseman Joe Cassidy, former huntsman of the Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds in Pennsylvania, as the farm manager, and he has become an indispensable part of the success. Cassidy's background in the sport has allowed him to manage the Bentleys' racing operation.

"Joe does a terrific job as a farm and racing manager," said Michael Matz, trainer of multiple stakes winner Late Frost for Runnymore. "He's one of the best I've ever dealt with. His experience and attention to detail make it easy to work with him, and the Bentleys are wonderful people to work for."

The Bentleys have embraced a hands-on approach, particularly regarding the strategy of raising and racing homebreds born on the farm in Pennsylvania.

"If you raise the horse, then you know the horse as much as anyone," said Greg, executive chair of Bentley Systems, an infrastructure software company founded by his brothers with 5,200 employees worldwide. "That's our approach – we race what we breed. We purchase some fillies with broodmare potential in mind, and they may race for a year or two before becoming part of our breeding program, but otherwise, we're committed to the breed-to-race strategy."

This strategy has paid off, especially with the homebreds, Late Frost and Caprice, who made big impacts at Delaware Park this year.

A Story of Perseverance

Born under harrowing circumstances, Late Frost's survival was never guaranteed. An unknown condition during her

“She’s a great horse to have in your stable, and we’ve been placing her in spots where she can be competitive. She’s at a point now where we can start looking at bigger and better opportunities for her.”

—Trainer Michael Matz, about Late Frost

birth put everyone at Runnymore in a spot where nobody wanted to be.

Her dam La La’s Cookin, who cost the Bentleys \$120,000 at Keeneland in 2018, didn’t survive the foaling but her daughter did.

“It was a catastrophe,” Caroline said. “We never thought she’d survive, let alone race. She was just this little filly who refused to give up. She’s such a tough cookie, and she kept coming back from every challenge.”

Cassidy won’t forget those days and gave credit to broodmare manager Jim Bergen.

“I was constantly asking myself if we were torturing her by keeping her alive,” Cassidy said. “But Jim Bergen kept telling me, ‘Give her one more chance, Joe,’ and we did. It’s incredible how much she’s rewarded us. We would’ve been proud just to see her make it to the races, but to have her competing and winning? It’s beyond anything we could’ve expected.”

The daughter of Frosted started her career with immediate success, winning her first two starts at Delaware Park and placing in a stakes at Penn National in 2022. Last year, she opened with a win in the New Start Stakes at Penn National in June but lost her next six, although she hit the board five times, including a third in the Charles Town Oaks-G3. Despite the defeats, Matz said the filly’s heart was always in it.

“She’s very consistent and just a little trier,” he said. “She’s a great horse to have in your stable, and we’ve been placing her in spots where she can be competitive. She’s at a point now where we can start looking at bigger and better opportunities for her.”

Fifth in a stakes at Mahoning Valley in November, she didn’t race again until Pimlico’s Skipat Stakes in May and finished third. She was second in Delaware’s Dashing Beauty in July, won Timonium’s \$75,000 Shine Again (her first win in more than 14 months) in August and continued the victory march in the \$100,000 Tax Free Shopping Distaff open allowance for Delaware-certified horses Sept. 19.

The season-ending wins gave her five in her career and \$409,790 earned in a dozen starts.

While Late Frost’s story is one of perseverance, stablemate Caprice’s is more about natural talent and potential. The filly, trained by Cal Lynch, has been a standout since her early days in training.

“She’s a good-minded filly,” Lynch said. “From the moment we sent her down to Ocala, we knew she was something special. She’s always been straightforward, and her biggest asset is her mind. She’s healthy, and that’s key.”

The 2-year-old daughter of Golden Lad out of the Street Cry (Ire) mare Grand Folly won the first three starts of her career – all at Delaware. She broke her maiden by 13¾ lengths July 20 and backed up that effort with a score in the \$50,000 Blue Hen Stakes Aug. 14. Next came the \$100,000 Small Wonder Stakes Sept. 11. Sent off as the heavy favorite in the \$125,000 White Clay Creek Oct. 9 off the two Delaware-certified stakes wins, she settled for second behind runaway winner Beautiful Blome.

“We’ve got high hopes for her,” Lynch said. “Her versatility and her temperament make her a filly to watch. She’s done nothing wrong so far, and we’re excited about what’s to come.”

Looking Ahead

Late Frost and Caprice led the charge in 2024, but the future looks bright at Delaware Park and beyond.

Maryland-bred purchase Alla Breve won the Jameela Stakes at Laurel Park in July. Homebred Cold Feet won twice at Monmouth Park and once at Delaware this year. Give It a Whirl captured the Bald Eagle Derby at Laurel in August. Treverso won the Crowd Pleaser Stakes at Parx Racing in June, following Stern Chaser’s win in the Lyphard in late May. And, in a return to the Bentleys’ jumping roots, 4-year-old hurdler Clifton Down (Ire) captured the Speedy Smithwick Memorial at the Virginia Gold Cup in May and the Harry Harris Hurdle Stakes at Far Hills, N.J., in October.

The commitment to the breeding program even sent Runnymore to Fasig-Tipton’s Saratoga yearling sale over the summer, where a Not This Time colt out of Judy In Disguise (GB) brought \$300,000.



MAGGIE KIMMITT

Greg and Caroline Bentley enjoyed a big season at Delaware Park this year.

The big-stage success follows the goal of breeding quality horses who can compete at the highest levels, without losing the regional flavor.

“Delaware has been very, very good to us,” Cassidy says. “It’s a great place to develop young horses, and the atmosphere is unbeatable. It checks all the boxes for us – it’s home.”

Delaware Notes

Runnymore ran away with the earnings crown among owners, and were third by races won behind Juan Arriagada (17) and the partnership of Morris Kernan Jr. and trainer Jamie Ness’ Jagger Inc. (15). Kernan and Ness teamed up with other partners to win 16 additional races . . . Not surprisingly, Ness ran away with another training title at Delaware (his record 12th overall and 10th in a row) with 59 wins and more

than \$1.2 million earned. Arriagada won 26 races while Gary Capuano tallied 25 . . . Five horses won four races at the meet – New York-bred Doin’ ittherightway, Maryland-bred Intrepid’s Legacy, Kentucky-bred Paper Mansion, Florida-bred Tweet Away Robin and Florida-bred Spikezone, who won his fourth in a row on closing day Oct. 17 . . . Maryland-bred 2-year-old colt It’s Hammertime won all three of his starts – a maiden in June, the First State Dash for Delaware-certified runners in September and open-company Rocky Run Stakes in October for Eagle Up Stables, London Reid Thoroughbreds and Non Stop Stable. Non Stop and ZWP Stable bred the son of Vekoma and the Not For Love mare Steady N Love. He was the second-leading earner of the meet (with \$175,000), behind Delaware Handicap-G2 winner Honor D Lady (\$300,000). ■



JOHN DEERE



Work. Horse.

Your favorite barn buddy is here.

A new John Deere Gator™ Utility Vehicle is the answer to all barn chores. From cleaning stalls and feeding the horses, to a comfortable seat for the trainer who does-the-most.

We have an extensive line-up of 2-, 3-, and 4-passenger work horses specifically designed for you.

To learn more about how you can save up to 28% on new John Deere equipment, call 1-866-678-4289 or visit JohnDeere.com/Equine today!



SCAN ME



EQUINE  DISCOUNTS

Maryland Horse[®]

November 2024

Official publication of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association; Vol. 89, No. 10



MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

321 Main Street
Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-252-2100

www.marylandthoroughbred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kent Allen Murray
President

Joseph P. "Josh" Pons
Vice-president

William K. Boniface
Secretary-treasurer

Cricket Goodall
Executive director

Brooke Bowman, Amy O.
Burk, Henry S. "Tim" Clark
III, Charles C. Fenwick Jr.,
Lisa Golden Hofstetter,
Michael Horning, TK Kuegler,
Grace Merryman, Gina Robb,
Phil Schoenthal, Thomas J.
Rooney, David Wade

DIRECTORS EMERITUS (served 18 years)

J. William Boniface, R. Thomas
Bowman, King T. Leatherbury,
Donald P. Litz Jr., Ann Mer-
ryman, Michael Pons, James
B. Steele, Katharine M. Voss

ADVISORY COUNCIL (past MHBA presidents)

Richard F. Blue Jr., J. William
Boniface, William K. Boniface,
Frank A. Bonsal, R. Thomas
Bowman, Hal C.B. Clagett III,
Michael Harrison DVM,
King T. Leatherbury,
J.W.Y. Martin Jr., Joseph
P. Pons Jr., Michael Pons,
James B. Steele, Katharine
M. Voss, Robert B. White

Crack of the Cue Ball

Letters from Country Life

By Josh Pons

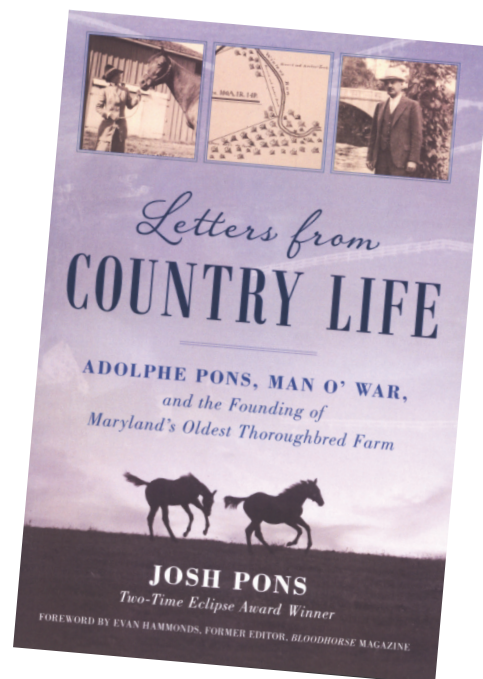
Editor's Note: If you're involved in Maryland's Thoroughbred world at all, you know Country Life Farm and the Pons family's deep roots in the state's racing industry. As always, there is more to the story. Part of the third generation of his family at Country Life, Eclipse Award-winning writer Josh Pons recently published Letters from Country Life, a book based on a trove of letters discovered in the basement of the farm's stately main house. What follows is a chapter from the new book, which you can learn more about in an author talk at the Maryland Horse Library and Education Center Dec. 5.

Maryland's Harford County in 1933 is a Garden of Eden, full of industrious dairy farms, full of cedar-laned horse farms. Stands of virgin mid-Atlantic hardwood forests. Tulip poplars measuring five feet in diameter. Country roads bordered by apple orchards. Splendid farmhouses. The night sky a brilliant planetarium. And, happily for Grandfather, a train runs through it, back and forth to New York City. He is smitten by the beauty of Harford County. When he examines bank lists of some thirty Maryland farms forced onto the market by unmet mortgages, he narrows the list to farms not remote from train stations. That's this county. He wants a closer look.

April 10th, 1933
Manager, Lord Baltimore Hotel

Dear Sir:

As I generally stay at your hotel when I am down during the racing season, I hope you will let me have three nice rooms. With my wife and children, we will be six in the party.



The Maryland Horse Breeders Association has just published *Maryland and the Thoroughbred* by D. Sterett Gittings. Governor Albert Ritchie has written the foreword:

Our accessibility renders Maryland an ideal place for carrying on this most important industry of raising Thoroughbreds.

In America in 1933, the average male life expectancy is fifty-eight years. Grandfather is forty-nine. His heart, before the term atrial fibrillation was coined, beats in irregular tremors. He hears it when his head rests on pillows, and intuitively understands he has no time to

lose. About him flows an urgency, a determination to leave a better life for his family. Midsummer, he takes the train

to Maryland, hops off at Aberdeen, rents a car, drives through the tidy little town of Bel Air, the county seat. An imposing

red-brick courthouse—Italianate style, dome-topped, built in 1858—anchors Main Street. Just across from the courthouse are the steep steps of the Vaughn Hotel, home to Preston's Stationery Store, where he buys the *Morning Telegraph*, checks New York's race entries and results, wishes it were the local racing season at nearby Havre de Grace Race Track, where he watched Man o' War win the Potomac Handicap a dozen years back. One floor below the newsstand, pool sharks crack cue balls on slate-bottomed tables in Preston's basement. Life is a gamble.

Grandfather is about to buy a one hundred-acre farm two miles south of Bel Air, on a hill looking down on Route 1. He has eliminated the idea of buying a farm in Kentucky – too far from his New York clients. He has driven around Maryland, examined ground, walked into and out of a dozen farmhouses, shooed off real estate men desperate to sell. The farm he has found is perfect. A fine manor house with arching stained glass windows, handsome shingle-style architecture, ornate balconies, white columns on wraparound porches.

And for the fine Thoroughbreds to come? Why, spring water flows through all the big fields, the pastures are lush green, and the hills are perfect for developing young equine athletes. Driving down across the bridge over scenic Lake Fanny above the rapids of Winters Run, Grandfather eyes his future home. A clipping from September of 1933 in the Harford County newspaper, *The Aegis*:

Mr. Adolphe Pons, long associated with the late August Belmont, has purchased the old David and Ralph Charles Lee farm. The 100-acre tract is right on the Bel Air Road. The amount is said to be \$20,000 from Raymond D. Miller, a retired minister.

The Lees, a Quaker family, owned farms on roads with names from the Bible – Joppa, Jerusalem, Jericho—and to power the waterwheels of their mills, always near rivers – Big Gunpowder, Little Gunpowder, Winters Run. They masoned fieldstone footers twenty-feet high on which to construct their elaborate barns, hand-hewn timbers mortised and tenoned, rising forty feet into the sky.

The Lees sold Rockland Farm to Miller in 1917, the Great War ramping up. Miller sold Rockland sixteen years later to Grandfather, the Great Depression descending.



UPCOMING

Maryland Horse Library Events



25

NOV
5:00 PM

Film Showing: *Maryland Horse*

In this film, *Maryland Horse* dives deep into Maryland's Thoroughbred racing industry in the 1960s. Covering classic races, farms, and an overview of the sport, this film features old footage and interviews sharing Maryland's Thoroughbred racing past.

5

DEC
4:00 PM

Author Talk with Josh Pons for new book, *"Letters from Country Life"*

Two-time Eclipse Award-winner and third-generation horseman Josh Pons explores a century of horse racing from the perspective of Maryland's oldest Thoroughbred farm.

20

DEC
11 AM-4 PM

Maryland Horse Library & Education Center Open House

Save the date for our annual holiday Open House! Enjoy exploring our collection, meeting the staff, and more. Stay up to date on further details at Marylandhorse.com.

REGISTER FOR EVENTS AT MARYLANDHORSE.COM/EVENTS



MARYLAND-BRED STAKES WINNERS

Beautiful Blome, It's Hammertime win back-to-back at Delaware Park

Two Delaware Park-based Maryland-bred 2-year-olds were primed and ready for the track's richest juvenile stakes of the year Oct. 9, as Charles Blanford's Beautiful Blome, co-owned with Teresa Haupt, rolled home an 8¼-length winner of the \$125,000 White Clay Creek, and undefeated It's Hammertime edged clear in the \$125,000 Rocky Run.

Beautiful Blome became Blanford's first stakes winner when upsetting overwhelming choice Caprice in the White Clay Creek. The two faced each other a second consecutive time, having contested Delaware's Small Wonder Stakes in September in which Caprice remained undefeated and Beautiful Blome finished 8 lengths behind the winner in third.

Sent off at 11-1 for her first start at a mile, Beautiful Blome broke well and had a rail position going into the first turn. Entering the backstretch she drifted back, not far behind Caprice, who hopped at the start and was not on her customary lead, as frontrunning Not Too Late went the first quarter in :24.72 and the half in :48.93.

Caprice took aim at Not Too Late rounding the far turn and wound up about six paths wide as Not Too Late drifted out. As those two battled down the stretch, Beautiful Blome dove to the inside and cruised past them both. Her final time was 1:41.49. Jockey Paco Lopez recorded his 4,001st win in the stakes.

"I always thought this horse could go long, always," trainer Anthony Pecoraro said. "She is not a horse who has a lot of speed, but she has always been able to make a big strong run in the stretch. So now let's see where she goes from here. We are pretty excited."

The win was the second from five starts for the Blofeld filly, who increased her earnings to \$129,115.

Developing a breeding program from the broodmare band of his mentor Bill Fossett, Blanford bred his first stakes winner out of the After Market mare Best Mom Ever, a granddaughter of Fossett's foundation mare No Fat Chicks, by Spring Double.

Blanford already had success with Crabs N Beer, Blofeld's first winner out of No Fat Chicks' granddaughter Get'm Up Pronto, a half-sister to Best Mom Ever. Now 5, Crabs N Beer has won or placed 21 times in 31 starts, earning \$384,846, was second in this year's Dinner Party Stakes-G3 at Pimlico, has twice hit the board in the Maryland Million Turf, including this year, and placed in three other stakes.

Best Mom Ever has three foals of racing age, all winners, including the \$183,170-earning Blofeld gelding Bestsugar-daddyever. The mare's yearling Blofeld filly sold last February at the Wanamaker's sale for \$10,000. Best Mom Ever returned to Blofeld for 2025.

Eagle Up Stables, London Reid Thoroughbreds and Non Stop Stable's It's Hammertime remained undefeated in three starts with his score in the Rocky Run.

Trained by Gary Capuano, the son of Vekoma broke from the outside post in a field of seven and, with the track's second-ranked rider Julio Hernandez, sought position early, getting over to the two path as the field exited the first turn.

It's Hammertime and Tony Eclipse battled throughout and hit the top of the stretch as a team. It's Hammertime gradually pulled away to win by 1½ lengths. It was more than 10 lengths back to Baby Dukes in third after a mile in 1:39.27.

"We had a good post. He has speed and we kind of got the trip we were hoping for," said Capuano. "I knew the two [Tony Eclipse] was going to be tough to get by, but I was pretty confident turning for home, especially after Julio [Hernandez] took a peek back to see if anyone else was coming, so I knew he had some horse left. He finished up really nice."

In his debut, It's Hammertime posted an 8-length score in a 5-furlong Delaware Park maiden June 5. He followed with a 5-length

triumph in the Delaware-bred or -certified 6-furlong \$100,000 First State Dash Stakes at Delaware Park Sept. 11. The third win pushed his earnings to \$175,000.

"We are pretty excited about him," added Capuano. "It is huge he passed the two-turn test. He is Delaware-certified, Maryland-bred and he has shown he can go a route, so we've got a lot of options with him down the road."

Bred by ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable, It's Hammertime is the second stakes performer for homebred mare Steady N Love (by Not For Love), following 2021 Private Terms Stakes winner Shackled Love. The mare has produced five foals of racing age, four six-figure earners. Steady N Love's 3-year-old Bolt d'Oro son Pappy's Revenge has been on the board in seven of 12 starts while earning \$162,612.

Steady N Love won or placed in five stakes over three seasons, scoring in the 2014 Caesar's Wish, and earning \$241,305. Her dam, the Malibu Moon mare Slow and Steady, cost Capuano \$14,500 as a yearling and raced for ZWP. She won or placed in 14 of 20 starts and earned \$123,510.

As a broodmare, Slow and Steady has produced 11 winners from as many starters, including Maryland-bred champion Steady Warrior (by ZWP bred and owned and Capuano-trained two-time Maryland-bred champion and Horse of the Year Cherokee's Boy), multiple stakes-placed Lucky in Malibu, Hanky Doodle and Who Dat Boy, and stakes-placed Fast Tracked. Her richest earner, with \$744,699, is daughter Malibu Beauty, a six-time stakes winner with scores in the All Brandy and Caesar's Wish this August.

Steady N Love has delivered May 2 the past two years to the cover of Game Winner – a colt in 2023 and a filly this year. The 13-year-old mare was bred to Mandaloun for 2025.

Jaxon Traveler reaches \$1 million at Remington Park

With a victory in the \$100,000 David Vance Stakes at Remington Park Sept. 29, Jaxon Traveler became the 32nd Maryland-bred millionaire. It's just the latest accolade for a horse who has graded stakes wins and numerous Maryland-bred championships over the course of five seasons.

The burly dark bay 6-year-old trained by Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen has been a standout for owner West Point Thoroughbreds, who purchased him for \$140,000 at the 2020 Ocala Breeders spring sale of 2-year-olds. After his latest win, West Point posted on its website: "Jaxon Traveler has

done it the hard way, winning stakes in all five seasons and now at six different race-tracks. And he has gotten better along the way, with deft management from Steve and his team, racking up four wins [three stakes] in 2024, and more than \$340,000 in earnings."

Teaming up with Stewart Elliott for a second consecutive start and coming off an allowance score Aug. 17 over the same track, the son of Munnings set every fraction of the 6 furlongs (:22.14, :44.92 and :56.87) and strolled home by 3½ lengths in 1:09.19.

"He broke alert and pulled me easily to the front," said Elliott. "He ran great. I know we came from off it in that last race, but he got pinched a bit at the five-eighths pole in that race. He can do it either way."

The eight-time stakes winner has additional wins this year in the Grade 3 Whitmore at Oaklawn Park in March and Bill Thomas Memorial in February at Sunland Park. In July he was second in the Iowa Sprint Stakes at Prairie Meadows.

A Maryland-bred champion at 2 after winning all three starts, including the Maryland Juvenile Futurity, he repeated as a divisional champion at 3 when running exclusively in stakes and hitting the board in all nine starts, with victories in the Bachelor and Star de Naskra and Grade 3 placings when second in Pimlico's Chick Lang and third in Saratoga's Quick Call. He recorded his first graded win in Pimlico's Grade 3 Maryland Sprint Stakes on Preakness Day 2022.

Jaxon Traveler has a record of 11 wins in 33 starts, with eight seconds, five thirds, and earnings of \$1,017,798.

Bred by veterinarians Lenny and Pat Pineau at their farm in the Worthington Valley, Jaxon Traveler is out of the After Market mare Listen Boy. He sold as a yearling at the 2019 Keeneland September sale for \$80,000.

All six of Listen Boy's foals of racing age are winners, including her first, Nuclear Option (First Defence), an 11-time winner of \$423,951, and My Candy Girl (Twirling Candy), a six-time winner of \$222,831. Current 3-year-old Brysons Option (Cross Traffic) broke his maiden at Laurel Park at 2; the mare's 2-year-old gelded son by Liam's Map, Star Atlas, breezed for the first time at Laurel in late September.

Listen Boy delivered a filly by Jack Christopher in February and went back to the same stallion.

Bucaro takes Presque Isle's Fitz Dixon Memorial

Marie Trombetta and Commonwealth New Era Racing's homebred Bucaro se-

cured his second win in as many starts by taking the \$80,000 Fitz Dixon Jr. Memorial Juvenile Stakes Sept. 20 at Presque Isle Downs.

Coming in off a maiden special weight win at Colonial Downs Aug. 13 at 5½ furlongs on the turf, Bucaro faced seven others in the Dixon on the all-weather surface going 6½ furlongs. He was last behind a tightly bunched field off early fractions of :22.56 and :45.55 and saved ground around the turn.

When a hole opened, the Mike Trombetta trainee squeezed through and edged away for his first stakes victory, scoring by three-quarters of a length in 1:16.15. Bucaro earned \$93,000 in the two wins.

Bucaro is by 2024 New York leading sire Bucchero and the first foal for the Declaration of War mare Bells of War, a Trombetta-trained juvenile winner of two of her four starts. Bells of War is a half-sister to graded winner Harvey Wallbanger; second dam Adorabell (by Distorted Humor) is a half-sister to stakes winners Wild Deputy and Deb's Honor. Bucaro's third dam, Hear the Bells (by Deputy Minister), defeated the boys in the 1990 Maryland Million Turf.

Super Chunk wins 3YO hurdle stakes for breeder Rall

An hour before his half-brother Great Idea went postward in the Maryland Million Turf Sprint at 5½ furlongs at Laurel Park Oct. 12, Vivian Rall's Super Chunk waited for the start of the \$50,000 Will O'Keefe Memorial Stakes at Middleburg in Virginia. His mission was taking on 2½ miles over hurdles in the stakes for 3-year-olds. Looking for his first win in three starts, the son of Super Ninety Nine got the job done.

With trainer Sean McDermott in the irons, Super Chunk bided his time through the first 1½ miles and was asked to go after clearing the second-last hurdle. He led over the last and drew off from there, winning by 7½ lengths over six fellow first-year hurdlers.

The success was a dramatic turnaround from his hurdle debut at Shawan Downs, where he was pulled up in soft turf, Sept. 28. The chestnut gelding made his first start in June at Laurel Park going 1½ miles on the turf – against a large field he was in touch early and backed out late, finishing nearly a dozen lengths behind the winner.

Rall's runners are given the opportunity to run on the flat and over jumps. Super Chunk is a half-brother to 5-year-old Icandothat (by Divining Rod) who won

a Foxfield hurdle handicap over fences Oct. 6. All three of Icandothat's wins have been over fences, by an average margin of 6 lengths.

Super Chuck and his siblings represent four generations of homebreds for Rall, descending from the *Mystic II mare Aunt Sheila (born in 1970). Their dam Calliope, a winning daughter of Out-flanker, has produced four foals of racing age, all winners. The group includes flat stakes horses Epic Idea and Great Idea, both by Great Notion.

Epic Idea crossed the finish first in back-to-back Maryland Million Ladies Handicaps in 2020 and 2021, but was disqualified to second in 2020. She went on to earn \$198,842.

Great Idea is Calliope's richest runner, with earnings of \$249,630. Claimed from Rall in July 2022 for \$40,000 by Dale Capuano for Louis Ulman, Great Idea has won four times since. This year he's been on the board in six of seven starts, including a third in the Ben's Cat Stakes in July. Making his first start in the Maryland Million, he rallied to just miss in the Turf Sprint, finishing second by a neck.

Calliope's most recent foal is a yearling filly by Divining Rod.

Thundering tops Maryland-bred exacta in Woodbine's Display

Dastur Racing homebred Thundering earned his first career victory in stakes company, taking the 7-furlong \$125,000 Display Stakes for 2-year-olds Oct. 13 over Woodbine's all-weather track. One of two Maryland-breds in the six-horse field, he was the longest shot on the board at 10-1.

Thundering broke slowly under Eswan Flores but worked his way up to gallop along in mid-pack off slow fractions set by first-time starter War of Destiny. As others took aim at the lead down the backstretch, Thundering remained a few lengths back and ahead of the other Maryland-bred, 9-2 fifth choice Bucaro.

Thundering began to quicken and at the top of the stretch the Patrick Dixon trainee accelerated to the front. Bucaro was the only other runner making any progress. The Mike Trombetta trainee, winner of the Fitz Dixon Jr. Memorial at Presque Isle, made a wide move and came within a length and a quarter, but never closer. Thundering stopped the clock in 1:23.64 and paid \$23.90 to win. The \$1 exacta paid \$91.35. It was the second start for Thundering, who closed to finish third after a wide trip a month ear-



Michael Burns Photography

lier at Woodbine. Winner of that maiden special weight was He's Not Joking, the Display favorite.

"We talked in the morning, me and Pat [Dixon], and that was kind of the scenario we thought it was going to follow, just try to be as close as possible to the pace, and the pace wasn't too fast," said Flores. "So, we were right there and just waiting for the time to let him go. I wasn't too impatient. I was just waiting for the right time. I didn't want to get him up in the front by himself too early."

"We always really liked this horse from the very first time I got him," said Dixon. "We nominated him for the stake because we liked him so much. So, we said, 'OK, well, let's give him a try. He always has to do something once

before he figures it out, and he just takes a little bit of time. Coming out of that first race, he was like a bear. He just turned into a complete racehorse."

A son of Country Life Farm sire Mosler and foaled at the Bel Air nursery, Thundering is out of Keep Right, a Street Cry (Ire) mare purchased by Country Life Farm for \$50,000 at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton New York fall mixed sale in foal to Lord Nelson. The resulting filly, One Silk Stocking, sold twice at auction, including for \$150,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale, and now has earnings of \$146,350. She was third in the All Brandy Stakes at Laurel in August after launching her career in California.

The mare's next Maryland-bred foal, Pay Zone, sold as a yearling and then for \$165,000 as a 2-year-old, is racing at Churchill Downs, and has earned \$131,917.

After producing the Maximus Mischief filly Rascallion in 2021 (she sold for \$40,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale), Keep Right sold at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December, with Thundering in utero, for \$2,500 to Jal Dastur. Thundering is her last to foal in Maryland.

Blofeld leads state, region with 76 mares bred in 2024

Twenty-three Maryland stallions covered 494 mares in 2024 according to The Jockey Club's Reports of Mares Bred received through Oct. 17, seventh among all states and provinces. The numbers reflect a national trend as they decreased 12.7 percent from 2023, with two fewer stallions reported.

Maryland stallions averaged 21.5 mares bred, maintaining the fourth-highest ranking behind Kentucky, Florida and New York.

For the third straight year Murmur Farm's Blofeld topped the list, covering 76 mares in 2024, the most in the Mid-Atlantic.

Northview Stallion Station's second-year stallion Engage had 56 bred to rank second, and Atlanta Hall Farm's Cupid, who moved to Maryland in 2024, covered 52 mares. Rounding out the top five was first-year sire Endorsed (47) and Golden Lad and Great Notion, each with 34 – all three stand at Northview.

The Jockey Club reported that 807 stallions covered 25,722 mares in North America during 2024. It is estimated that an additional 2,500 to 3,500 mares will be reported as bred during the 2024 breeding season. Statistics for all reported stallions in 2024 are available in the Fact Book section of jockeyclub.com.



MARYLAND FUND REPORT

Bonuses paid for races run
in June 2024 at Maryland tracks

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Boss Man J J: June 14, 1st race, \$1,170. She's a rolling stone: June 9, 4th race, \$1,192.50. Vance Scholars: June 14, 8th race, \$2,835; June 30, 7th race, \$2,520. (\$7,717.50)

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Copper Penny Stables—Angel Art: June 16, 6th race, \$2,160. Skylar's Brother: June 9, 6th race, \$922.50. (\$3,082.50)

Victor Bahna Jr.—Flinny Tin Tin: June 1, 10th race, \$990.

Barak Farm—Always Forward: June 9, 9th race, \$495. Enemynumbermine: June 8, 5th race, \$922.50; June 21, 3rd race, \$3,510/\$1,170. Kitty's Son: June 8, 1st race, \$1,485; June 30, 3rd race, \$922.50. Safe Trust: June 1, 3rd race, \$5,535/\$1,845. (\$15,885)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Shkhara Fire: June 7, 2nd race, \$5,535/\$1,845. Skip Thru Da Fire: June 15, 4th race, \$990. (\$8,370)

Paul W. Berube, Karen Linnell and Spinnaker Hill Farm—Quint's Brew: June 29, 8th race, \$3,375.

Big Lick Farm and Erin Atkiss—Cap'n Dusty: June 2, 7th race, \$1,057.50. La Befana: June 21, 9th race, \$1,170. Lothario: June 9, 3rd race, \$5,535. (\$7,762.50)

Black Fox Farm—Remembering Wilbur: June 15, 7th race, \$3,240.

Charles Blanford—Bourbon N Lace: June 29, 6th race, \$5,535. Go Sherry Go: June 1, 8th race, \$2,205. (\$7,740)

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Prince Pere: June 14, 5th race, \$540. The Last Scip: June 23, 5th race, \$2,610. (\$3,150)

William T. Bourne—Mister Mitch: June 2, 9th race, \$1,057.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Blue Kingdom: June 2, 9th race, \$6,345/\$2,115. Chelichna: June 1, 6th race, \$2,160; June 23, 7th race, \$2,160. Find Faith: June 22, 3rd race, \$742.50. Gabriel Seven: June 15, 9th race, \$495. Right Quick: June 14, 2nd race, \$495. (\$14,512.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Alwaysinahurry: June 28, 8th race, \$7,560.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Estate of Milton P. Higgins III—Carvellian Quest: June 21, 7th race, \$2,160.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Kake Pop: June 22, 2nd race, \$1,170. Kerness K: June 7, 2nd race, \$922.50. (\$2,092.50)

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood F. Bryant—Northern Tick Tock: June 23, 3rd race, \$2,160. William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: June 14, 6th race, \$2,295.

Louis C. Carrico—Duckpins: June 2, 5th race, \$1,170. June 21, 2nd race, \$1,170. (\$2,340) Wes Carter—Had to Have Him: June 7, 7th race, \$2,385; June 21, 6th race, \$1,080. (\$3,465) Chanceland Farm—Italian War Cry: June 23, 4th race, \$1,170.

Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen—Except Temptation: June 1, 6th race, \$1,080.

Angela B. Coombs—Catahoula Moon: June 7, 8th race, \$1,192.50.

Country Life Farm and Basedonatruestory LLC—Sheherhersh: June 9, 9th race, \$990.

Country Life Farm, Paul Berube and Karen Linnell—Touisset: June 16, 6th race, \$1,080.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Divine Romance: June 9, 9th race, \$2,970.

Country Life Farm and Sister State LLC—Lady Ensign: June 2, 1st race, \$742.50; June 28, 1st race, \$1,485. (\$2,227.50) Country Roads Ltd.—Sports Editor: June 15, 8th race, \$1,192.50.

Dark Hollow Farm—Circle Home: June 8, 6th race, \$6,615.

Cynthia J. Darrah-Hipple—Lady Zeta: June 21, 5th race, \$832.50.

Rebecca B. Davis—Great Andrei: June 8, 3rd race, \$4,455.

John C. Davison—Mile High Miracle: June 7, 5th race, \$742.50.

David M. DiPietro—Little Josie Wales: June 1, 2nd race, \$3,510; June 28, 2nd race, \$1,485. (\$4,995)

George L. Doetsch—Kinda Fonda Wanda: June 16, 3rd race, \$585.
 Hassan Elamri—Golden Can: June 23, 9th race, \$1,080.
 Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Band Camp: June 30, 2nd race, \$4,995.
 Robert E. Gamber—I Can Do It: June 28, 2nd race, \$4,455.
 Glenangus Farm LLC—First Pearl: June 29, 6th race, \$1,845. Riccio: June 1, 9th race, \$6,480. Starlifter: June 14, 3rd race, \$922.50. (\$9,247.50)
 Greycross Stable, LLC—Bay Street: June 16, 5th race, \$6,480.
 Maria M. Haire—Elvis Himself: June 22, 4th race, \$2,115. Get Like Mike: June 30, 8th race, \$990. Play Harder: June 1, 7th race, \$6,615. June 29, 8th race, \$10,125. (\$19,845)
 Hickory Ridge Farm—All the Hardways: June 7, 2nd race, \$1,845; June 30, 5th race, \$5,535. (\$7,380)
 Hillwood Stable LLC—The Band Runs On: June 1, 7th race, \$2,205.
 Michael and Debbie Horning—Cut From Class: June 9, 5th race, \$7,155. Princess Lucia: June 22, 7th race, \$4,455. (\$11,610)
 Ann B. Jackson—Brzina: June 1, 5th race, \$832.50; June 21, 5th race, \$1,665. (\$2,497.50)
 Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Derby-ness: June 1, 7th race, \$1,102.50.
 R. Larry Johnson—Active: June 16, 1st race, \$5,535. Call the Question: June 2, 3rd race, \$4,455. Jumpingjaggerflash: June 2, 5th race, \$3,510. Naval Empire: June 23, 7th race, \$1,080. Nineteenamendment: June 14, 7th race, \$1,102.50. Whenigettoheaven: June 7, 7th race, \$7,155. (\$22,837.50)
 Carol A. Kaye—Elon: June 9, 3rd race, \$1,845.
 Kelly Racing LLC—Magic in the Park: June 16, 1st race, \$922.50.
 Toni M. Kirwan and Edward Hipps—Minx-luckystarfire: June 14, 4th race, \$585; June 30, 8th race, \$2,970. (\$3,555)
 Carl Lanier—Box N Ben: June 9, 2nd race, \$990. Freeze the Fire: June 21, 7th race, \$6,480. (\$7,470)
 Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Celtic Contender: June 8, 8th race, \$6,615; June 29, 8th race, \$1,687.50. (\$8,302.50)
 Lewis Family Racing Stable—Hunter Joe: June 30, 4th race, \$2,520.
 Little Man Farm—Tidewater: June 15, 5th race, \$6,615.
 Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Catch the Kitten: June 8, 2nd race, \$1,170; June 29, 9th race, \$3,510. Dazzy: June 16, 5th race, \$2,160. (\$6,840)
 Marathon Farm Inc.—Abuelo Paps: June 15, 9th race, \$2,970.
 Elizabeth Martin—Bunny Hop: June 22, 2nd race, \$3,510.
 Elizabeth M. Merryman—Mission Man: June 23, 3rd race, \$6,480.
 Mike Dalton LLC—Quincannon: June 1, 1st race, \$2,970. Sneaking Suspicion: June 1, 9th race, \$1,080. (\$4,050)
 Bryan B. Minnich—King's River: June 2, 2nd race, \$1,845; June 28, 6th race, \$6,615. (\$8,460)
 Kevin P. Morgan—Call to Order: June 21, 9th race, \$3,510; Mavilus: June 16, 2nd race, \$1,665. (\$5,175)
 Morgan's Ford Farm—Nicolar: June 15, 1st race, \$3,240.
 Murmur Farm—Mister Agent: June 22, 3rd race, \$4,455.
 Northwoods Stable—Mission North: June 2, 7th race, \$6,345. Northern Rye: June 21, 4th race, \$742.50. (\$7,087.50)
 No Guts No Glory Farm—Bandits Warrior: June 23, 9th race, \$3,240. Do It for Michael: June 30, 3rd race, \$5,535/\$1,845. Irish Bandit: June 9, 2nd race, \$2,970. Irish Hero: June 8, 8th race, \$2,205. Itsamonstamash: June 1, 3rd race, \$922.50. Mama G's Wish: June 1, 5th race, \$1,665. (\$18,382.50)

Clarke Ohrstrom—Granuaile: June 8, 9th race, \$1,845. Jardani: June 28, 4th race, \$1,305. Summer Ice: June 7, 9th race, \$1,170. (\$4,320)
 A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: June 1, 9th race, \$2,160; June 23, 3rd race, \$1,080. (\$3,240)
 Joel Politi—Jolly Boss: June 23, 1st race, \$4,455/\$1,485. Nola Boss: June 30, 3rd race, \$1,845. (\$7,785)
 Ponder Hill Inc.—Barzini: June 21, 6th race, \$6,480.
 Vivian E. Rall—Great Idea: June 21, 6th race, \$2,160.
 Cynthia K. Rickman—Casino Tricks: June 15, 9th race, \$990.
 Dr. and Mrs. William E. Riddle Jr.—Tubtimsiam: June 23, 2nd race, \$2,970; June 29, 2nd race, \$1,485. (\$4,455)
 Rolling Meadows Farm—Confluence Lassie: June 15, 4th race, \$2,970/\$990. Summerin-the-country: June 30, 5th race, \$1,845. Sweetethanwhiskey: June 2, 1st race, \$1,485; June 16, 6th race, \$6,480. (\$13,770)
 Timothy J. Rooney—Thegirlfromireland: June 1, 6th race, \$6,480.
 Janice Sinatra—S S Sinatra: June 7, 3rd race, \$4,455.
 James Claude Smith Jr.—Claude Boy: June 14, 1st race, \$585.
 Bob G. Sowder—Irish Lace: June 29, 4th race, \$450.
 Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—Ain't Da Beer Cold: June 14, 8th race, \$1,417.50.
 James B. Steele Jr.—Hampton Lane: June 9, 2nd race, \$495.
 James F. Stevenson—Gingersraceday: June 21, 9th race, \$585.
 Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette—Lady Lemon-cello: June 22, 7th race, \$742.50.
 Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Alla Breve: June 14, 7th race, \$6,615. First to Arrive: June 8, 5th race, \$1,845. Goodafternoonscar: June 9, 8th race, \$1,102.50. (\$9,562.50)
 Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Hardspun Reason: June 15, 8th race, \$7,155.
 James F. Thames—Irish Warlock: June 21, 7th race, \$1,080.
 The Elkstone Group LLC—Brady Bear: June 28, 7th race, \$1,170. It's Viper: June 8, 7th race, \$1,192.50. Lifelovenlaughter: June 23, 7th race, \$6,480. Oncourtcommentator: June 28, 9th race, \$6,345. Order Ofthe Kettle: June 22, 3rd race, \$1,485. The Addison Pour: June 15, 8th race, \$2,385. (\$19,057.50)
 Thormar Farm LLC—At First Sight: June 15, 2nd race, \$990. Bali Hai: June 15, 2nd race, \$495. Great Kisser: June 7, 5th race, \$4,455/\$1,485. Little Bit Risky: June 30, 5th race, \$922.50. Please Marry Me: June 29, 9th race, \$585. Thataway: June 7, 1st race, \$1,170. Watch Out World: June 7, 5th race, \$1,485. (\$11,587.50)
 2500 Determined Holdings—Grayson's Girl: June 29, 6th race, \$922.50. Overly Dramatic: June 7, 4th race, \$6,615. (\$7,537.50)
 Two Legends Farm—Hazelmoor Beach: June 29, 9th race, \$1,170.
 Walter N. Wieser II—Intel Agent: June 2, 3rd race, \$742.50.
 David H. Wade—Rominski: June 16, 7th race, \$8,505.
 Maureen Wade—Play Like a Raven: June 22, 4th race, \$6,345.
 Estate of Linda M. Walls—Concrete Faze: June 1, 2nd race, \$585.
 Donald Clifford Wilson—Thencomemorning: June 16, 5th race, \$1,080.
 David W. Wright—Lady Ophelia: June 22, 9th race, \$585.
 Mrs. Frank P. Wright—Power Back: June 14, 5th race, \$3,240.
 Winding Creek Farm—No Cents Non Cents: June 7, 3rd race, \$1,485; June 23, 1st race, \$742.50. (\$2,227.50)
 WWCD LLC—Mattitude: June 1, 5th race, \$4,995; June 21, 5th race, \$4,995. (\$9,990)

Maryland-bred top earners in 2024

(through October 17)

1. Post Time \$745,000
2. Mindframe 647,360
3. Future Is Now 513,155
4. Jaxon Traveler 341,799
5. Call Another Play 213,815
6. Rominski 198,390
7. Miss Harriett 195,950
8. Band Camp 195,580
9. Fulmineo 193,095
10. Brilliant Ice 192,690
11. Malibu Beauty \$187,865
12. Studlydoright 182,180
13. It's Hammertime 175,000
14. Celtic Contender 169,805
15. Golden Charm 155,610
16. Play Harder 153,055
17. Brzina 151,895
18. Had to Have Him 148,400
19. Circle Home 146,068
20. Crabs N Beer 145,767

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Malibu Beauty: June 21, 8th race, \$2,835.

Stallion bonuses

BANDBOX (Band Camp: June 30, 2nd race, \$1,665. Box N Ben: June 9, 2nd race, \$330. Mister Mitch: June 2, 9th race, \$352.50. The Band Runs On: June 1, 7th race, \$735): Northview Stallion Station—\$3,082.50.
 BARBADOS (Hampton Lane: June 9, 2nd race, \$165): Shamrock Farm.
 BLOFELD (Mister Agent: June 22, 3rd race, \$1,485): Blofeld Syndicate.
 BOURBON COURAGE (She'sarollingstone: June 9, 4th race, \$397.50. Skylar's Brother: June 9, 6th race, \$307.50. Sweetethanwhiskey: June 2, 1st race, \$495; June 16, 6th race, \$2,160): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—\$3,360.
 BUFFUM (Malibu Beauty: June 21, 8th race, \$945. Quincannon: June 1, 1st race, \$990): Buffum Syndicate—\$1,935.
 DIVINING ROD (Dazzy: June 16, 5th race, \$720. Divine Romance: June 9, 9th race, \$990. Find Faith: June 22, 3rd race, \$247.50. Mile High Miracle: June 7, 5th race, \$247.50. Shehehers: June 9, 9th race, \$330): Divining Rod Syndicate—\$2,535.
 EDITORIAL (Right Quick: June 14, 2nd race, \$165. Sports Editor: June 15, 8th race, \$397.50): Climax Stallions LLC—\$562.50.
 FIRST MONDAYS (Blue Kingdom: June 2, 9th race, \$2,115. First Pearl: June 29, 6th race, \$615. Starlifter: June 14, 3rd race, \$307.50): First Mondays Partnership—\$3,037.50.
 FORCE THE PASS (Had to Have Him: June 7, 7th race, \$795; June 21, 6th race, \$360): Wasabi Venture Stables LLC—\$1,155.
 FREEDOM CHILD (Ain't Da Beer Cold: June 14, 8th race, \$472.50): Freedom Child Syndicate.
 FRIESAN FIRE (Freeze the Fire: June 21, 7th race, \$2,160. Shkhara Fire: June 7, 2nd race, \$1,845. Skip Thru Da Fire: June 15, 4th race, \$330. Thencomemorning: June 16, 5th race, \$360): Friesan Fire Syndicate—\$4,695.
 GOLDEN LAD (Bali Hai: June 15, 2nd race, \$165. Casino Tricks: June 15, 9th race, \$330. Catahoula Moon: June 7, 8th race, \$397.50. Elvis Himself: June 22, 4th race, \$705. Go Sherry Go: June 1, 8th race, \$735. Golden Can: June 23, 9th race, \$360. Itsamonstamash: June 1, 3rd race, \$307.50. Remembering Wilbur: June 15, 7th race, \$1,080): Golden Lad Syndicate—\$4,080.
 GREAT NOTION (Alwaysinahurry: June 28, 8th race, \$2,520. At First Sight: June 15, 2nd race, \$330. Brzina: June 1, 5th race, \$277.50; June 21, 5th race, \$555. Elon: June 9, 3rd race, \$615. Great Idea: June 21, 6th race, \$720. Great Kisser: June 7, 5th race, \$1,485. Intel Agent: June 2, 3rd race, \$247.50. Kerness K: June 7, 2nd race, \$307.50. Little Bit Risky: June 30, 5th race, \$307.50. Little Josie Wales: June 1, 2nd race, \$1,170; Little Josie Wales: June 28, 2nd race,

\$495. Mattitude: June 1, 5th race, \$1,665; June 21, 5th race, \$1,665. Rominski: June 16, 7th race, \$2,835. Sneaking Suspicion: June 1, 9th race, \$360): Great Notion Syndicate—\$15,555.
 HOLY BOSS (Boss Man J J: June 14, 1st race, \$390. Crossland: June 1, 9th race, \$720; June 23, 3rd race, \$360. Granuaile: June 8, 9th race, \$615. Jardani: June 28, 4th race, \$435. Jolly Boss: June 23, 1st race, \$1,485. Mission Man: June 23, 3rd race, \$2,160. Nola Boss: June 30, 3rd race, \$615. Summer Ice: June 7, 9th race, \$390. Vance Scholars: June 14, 8th race, \$945; June 30, 7th race, \$840): Holy Boss Syndicate—\$8,955.
 IMAGINING (Angel Art: June 16, 6th race, \$720. Hazelmoor Beach: June 29, 9th race, \$390): Imagining Syndicate—\$1,110.
 IRISH WAR CRY (Celtic Contender: June 8, 8th race, \$2,205; June 29, 8th race, \$562.50. Irish Bandit: June 9, 2nd race, \$990. Irish Hero: June 8, 8th race, \$735. Irish Lace: June 29, 4th race, \$150. Irish Warlock: June 21, 7th race, \$360. Italian War Cry: June 23, 4th race, \$390. King's River: June 2, 2nd race, \$615; June 28, 6th race, \$2,205): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—\$8,212.50.
 LONG RIVER (Confluence Lassie: June 15, 4th race, \$990): Long River Syndicate.
 MADEFROMLUCKY (Lady Ophelia: June 22, 9th race, \$195. Minxluckystarfire: June 14, 4th race, \$195; June 30, 8th race, \$990): Made-fromlucky Syndicate—\$1,380.
 MOSLER (Bandits Warrior: June 23, 9th race, \$1,080. Bay Street: June 16, 5th race, \$2,160. Quint's Brew: June 29, 8th race, \$1,125. Safe Trust: June 1, 3rd race, \$1,845. Touisset: June 16, 6th race, \$360): Mosler Syndicate—\$6,570.
 NO NEVER NO MORE (No Cents Non Cents: June 7, 3rd race, \$495; June 23, 1st race, \$247.50): Tigertail Ranch—\$742.50.
 ORIENTATE (Mavilus: June 16, 2nd race, \$555. Prince Pere: June 14, 5th race, \$180): Orientate Syndicate—\$735.
 OUTFLANKER (Mama G's Wish: June 1, 5th race, \$555. Tidewater: June 15, 5th race, \$2,205): Outflanker Syndicate—\$2,760.
 SCIPION (The Last Scip: June 23, 5th race, \$870): Scipion Syndicate.
 SEVILLE (GER) (Chelichna: June 1, 6th race, \$720; June 23, 7th race, \$720): Seville Syndicate—\$1,440.
 STREET MAGICIAN (Gabriel Seven: June 15, 9th race, \$165. Jumpingjaggerflash: June 2, 5th race, \$1,170. Magic in the Park: June 16, 1st race, \$307.50. Whenigettoheaven: June 7, 7th race, \$2,385): R. Larry Johnson—\$4,027.50.
 SUPER NINETY NINE (Bad Temper: June 14, 6th race, \$765. Concrete Faze: June 1, 2nd race, \$195. Enemynumberline: June 8, 5th race, \$307.50; June 21, 3rd race, \$1,170): Country Life Farm—\$2,437.50.
 UNCLE LINO (Do it for Michael: June 30, 3rd race, \$1,845): Northview Stallion Station.



- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - November 2024 -

In This Issue

J J Zo Zo impressive in Smoke Glacken

Classy Jersey-bred He'spuregold rallies for head victory in \$100,000 Red Bank Stakes

Smithwick's Spice earns third stakes win of 2024 in Joey P.

Bel Pensiero wins Pinot Grigio Handicap

Gov. Murphy signs extension for purse enhancements for horse racing

Monmouth shows increase in average total and on-track handle for fourth straight year

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey

Officers

President

Rory Huston

Vice President

Janet Laszio

Treasurer

Lawrence Fleming

Secretary

Joe Coles

Board of Trustees

Joe Petrone

Nicholas Sacco

Executive Director

Michael Campbell

J J Zo Zo impressive in Smoke Glacken

by Bill Finley

With the New Jersey racing season about to come to an end, trainer Jose Sanchez is not sure yet where his star 2-year-old J J Zo Zo will run next. But after the son of Sea Wizard clobbered the competition in the Smoke Glacken Stakes Sept. 7 at Monmouth, Garcia isn't afraid to run him anywhere or against anybody. Nor should be. J J Zo Zo was that impressive, beating open company by 8½ lengths.

"He came out of the race in pretty good shape," Sanchez said. "We are looking into options somewhere else, maybe New York, maybe Kentucky. Right now we don't have a race in mind for him. We are looking into it. With him being so impressive in the (Smoke Glacken) we should be ok wherever we run him."

From the first day the 2-year-old colt came into Sanchez's barn, he knew he had a horse with speed and ability. But even he was surprised by the manner in which J J Zo Zo won the Smoke Glacken. He went straight to the front from the gate and widened his margin in the stretch in a race that was a mismatch.

"In his first race, he needed the race, so it didn't surprise me that he got a little bit tired," Sanchez said. "I was expecting him to break his maiden in his second start but he ran into some trouble. He just had some bad luck. The day he broke his maiden, he was impressive. He got passed in the stretch and came back to fight to get the win."

"But the talent was always there. Before I ran him the first time, he had a breeze where he showed a lot of speed. I breezed him with two other horses. He broke pretty fast. He went in 35 for the three-eighths and 47 flat for a half



EQUI-PHOTO INC.

mile. I realized then we had a horse with talent. But I didn't know that he'd be this good. I was pretty confident he could break his maiden against Jersey bred and then maybe we could try stakes races. I was impressed by the way he won. Honestly, I thought he could win the race but not that impressively."

Originally, Sanchez wasn't interested in running in the Smoke Glacken because it meant that horses had to come back in 13 days. But when he saw the list of nominations he did not see a horse he thought he couldn't beat.

"I wasn't going to run him until I saw the nominations and that there was nothing impressive among the nominees," he said. "So I was excited to run him there."

J J Zo paid \$3.60 and covered the 6 furlongs in 1:11.27. Fellow Jersey-bred Royal Performance was fourth.

continued on next page



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on.



THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / EMAIL: NJBREDS@GMAIL.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

J J Zo Zo is owned and bred by Jose Garcia. He is one of only eight horses in Sanchez's barn.

"I keep a small number," he said. "I like to get my hands on all the horses. That's the reason why I keep 10 or fewer."

Sanchez knows what it's like to be around a good horse, as he was Skip Away's groom for trainer Sonny Hine.

"I go all the way back to Sonny Hine and I was Skip Away's groom throughout

his career," he said. "Since day one, when he got to the barn, I was the only groom he ever had."

Sanchez went out on his own in 2016 and says he still uses the lessons Hine taught him.

"Sonny was great. He was one of the old-time trainers," Sanchez said. "I was young then but I learned a lot from him. I use a lot of his training methods. I'm doing a lot of what he did with this horse."

That the sire Sea Wizard has produced another stakes winner is hardly a surprise. The lightly-raced son of Uncle Mo, who calls Pegasus Stud in Colts Neck home, is clearly the best sire standing in the state. He's had three crops get to the races and already has four stakes winners who have combined to win five stakes overall. He's yet to have a graded stakes winner.

J J Zo Zo might just change that.

Classy Jersey-bred He'spuregold rallies for head victory in \$100,000 Red Bank Stakes

For everything that He'spuregold has accomplished during his career – and there's a laundry list of significant achievements – the one hole in his resume was the absence of a stakes win in open company.

No longer.

The 6-year-old Jersey-bred gelding turned in a performance that trainer Kelly Breen said might have been the best race of his 28-race career, wearing down fellow state-bred There Are No Words in deep stretch for a head victory in the \$100,000 Red Bank Stakes at Monmouth Park.

In a banner year for state-breds, the 1-2 finish in the 51st edition of the Red Bank Stakes added to those exploits.

The winning time for the mile over a turf course was 1:36.10.

"It's his first stakes win outside of Jersey-bred competition so it's a big deal," said Breen. "I think a mile (where he is six-for-12 lifetime) is his best distance. He was in the right spot in the right place today. I told Paco Lopez to try to sit the pocket. The rest was up to Paco. We don't need to tell him too much.

"We've talked about this (winning an open stakes race) for years, Mr. John Bowers (the owner and breeder) and I. I gave him a big congratulations that we finally did it."



A son of Vancouver (Aus), He'spuregold's career accomplishments include being named New Jersey's Champion Turf Horse in 2021, New Jersey's Champion Older Male in 2022 and 2023, and winning the Irish War Cry Handicap four straight years.

The Red Bank marked his sixth career stakes win and saw him improve to 7-for-12 on the Monmouth Park turf course.

Able to stay close to the pace set by Ocean City and the stalking There Are No Words, Lopez coaxed just enough out of He'spuregold to get the victory after a sustained stretch run.

Sir London was third, 1¾ lengths behind There Are No Words.

"When the grass is a little firm like it was today he runs well," said Lopez, who was on the verge of his 11th riding title

at Monmouth Park. "When he's feeling good like he was today he runs good. I let him get comfortable and I was able to stay close to the leaders and that set us up nicely for the finish.

"For sure this was one of his better races, especially looking at the horses he beat today."

Lopez would know, having ridden the horse in each of his past 17 starts.

Breen, who has won three Monmouth Park training titles, has hinted that this may be He'spuregold's last year of racing, but now it's something he may reconsider.

"I don't know what his future is," said Breen after He'spuregold increased his lifetime earnings to \$595,170 with his ninth career win. "He has surprised me with how well he is doing and he keeps on doing it. It's going to be up to Mr. Bowers and I'll see what he says.

"I wish I could tell you how much this means to Mr. Bowers (who owns Roseland Farm). He only has two horses in training now after all those years he owned and bred horses. He has this horse and Royal Performance, a 2-year-old who is going to run in the Smoke Glacken (on Saturday) at Monmouth. So I know this means a whole lot to him right now."



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on.



THOROUGHbred BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / EMAIL: NJBREDS@GMAIL.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

Smithwick's Spice earns third stakes win of 2024 in Joey P.

Thanks to the race not being carded in 2023, Smithwick's Spice waited an extra year to defend his Joey P. Handicap title.

It was worth the wait.

Jockey Jorge Gonzalez wanted the lead with Smithwick's Spice, dissuaded pace rivals Gold Trust, Speaking and Bingo's Boy through an opening quarter in 21.86 seconds, then drew away to prevail by $4\frac{3}{4}$ lengths over Like What I See in the \$85,000 5-furlong turf dash for New Jersey-breds at Monmouth Park.

Smithwick's Spice is trained by Douglas Nunn, who has kept the gelding busy in 2024. The Joey P. was his 11th start of the year, and his fourth race of the Monmouth meeting.



EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Smithwick's Spice wintered in Florida, where he captured the Turf Dash at Tampa Bay Downs Feb. 24. Smithwick's Spice won a restricted allowance at Delaware on July 31, scored the open

Select Stakes at Monmouth 17 days later, then finished sixth in Saratoga's Harvey Pack on Sept. 2.

A homebred owned by Robert Matthies' New Spice Stable, Smithwick's Spice is an 8-year-old gelding by Frost Giant. He has compiled a record of 13 wins from 48 starts for career earnings of \$692,492.

When describing Smithwick's Spice's effort in the Harvey Pack, Nunn said that the veteran is "not a horse that wants to be down inside. From the quarter pole all the way to the sixteenth pole, he was in tight and even got checked late. I think we didn't get to see the best of him."

Nunn got Smithwick's Spice's best in the Joey P, the final stakes race of the 2024 Monmouth meet.

Bel Pensiero wins Pinot Grigio Handicap

Like fine wine, Bel Pensiero improves with age, and the 4-year-old filly prompted the pacesetter under jockey Ramon Moya before pouncing her way to victory in the \$85,000 Pinot Grigio Handicap for New Jersey-bred fillies and mares racing 5 furlongs on turf.

Trained by Anthony Margotta Jr. for Hudson Stable, Let It Ride Equine Holdings and A R M Racing, Bel Pensiero broke best, then let a hard-ridden Let Her Run make the lead from the inside.

Let Her Run clocked the opening quarter in 22 seconds flat with Bel Pensiero in closest attendance. In behind those two were race favorite Bingo's Birkin on the outside and defending Pinot Grigio winner Mia's Crusade in a comfortable pocket position.



EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Bel Pensiero took over for good turning into the stretch and, despite failing to change leads, always had enough in the tank to deny Bingo's Birkin by three-quarters of a length in :56.67.

Mia's Crusade finished another 2 lengths back in third. Summer's Comin, Delightful Ava, Let Her Run and Captured Darling completed the order

of finish. Amazing Graces Joy and Sea Maiden scratched.

Bel Pensiero returned \$13 to win as the fourth choice in the wagering.

Bred by ARM Consulting, Bel Pensiero is a daughter of Army Mule out of Milaya, a four-time winner by Eskendereya. The second dam, Trendy Lady, was Grade 3-placed sprinting on polytrack.

Bel Pensiero became a true stakes horse in 2024. She finished second in the 6-furlong Regret on dirt at Monmouth July 24, ran fifth in the Incredible Revenge at five-eighths on the turf, then tuned up for the Pinot Grigio with a runner-up placing in the restricted Eleven North Stakes at 6 furlongs on dirt Aug. 25.

Bel Pensiero has won four of 15 races while earning \$284,937.



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on.



THOROUGHbred BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / EMAIL: NJBREDS@GMAIL.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

Gov. Murphy signs extension for purse enhancements for horse racing

Governor Phil Murphy has signed legislation that will extend the \$20 million annual purse enhancement for horse racing in the state, with the appropriation now running through to the state's fiscal year in 2029, the Governor's office announced.

Monmouth Park will receive \$10 million annually for purses, with the remaining \$10 million going toward purses for Standardbred racing at the Meadowlands Racetrack and Freehold Raceway, as well money earmarked for bonuses for state-sired horses and breeders' awards.

"Given the critical importance of the horse racing industry to not only the state's economy, but to farmland and

open space preservation, I am signing this legislation to signal my desire for the state to continue to make this investment each year at the level directed in the bill," Gov. Murphy said in a statement.

"New Jersey's horse racing industry is a key economic engine, supporting thousands of jobs and attracting tourists and fans from around the world. The funding promised by this legislation will allow New Jersey to continue to offer one of the most exciting horse racing experiences in the nation, while also providing a boost to an industry that is integral to our economy."

The legislation passed 76-0 in the Assembly and 40-0 in the Senate.

"We're grateful for the ongoing

support for horse racing shown by Gov. Murphy and the state's legislators," said Dennis Drazin, Chairman and CEO of Darby Development, LLC, the operators of Monmouth Park. "We're in a very competitive market in the Northeast, where purse structure is vital to attracting top horses and putting on the highest quality product we can. This added purse money keeps us on solid footing to continue to offer first-class racing to fans."

The original legislation designating the purse enhancement for racing was signed by Gov. Murphy in February 2019. That includes \$20 million for purses already appropriated for the state's fiscal year 2025.

Monmouth shows increase in average total and on-track handle for fourth straight year

Spurred in part by a record handle on NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes Day, Monmouth Park continued its upward trend with increases in both total and on-track handle for the fourth straight year, while jockey Paco Lopez and trainer Claudio Gonzalez were repeat winners of their respective titles as the 50-day meet came to an end on Sept. 15.

Total average handle was \$4,251,965, a 5.4 percent increase over last year's average of \$4,032,648 during a 51-day meet.

On-track handle averaged \$352,939, a 3.7 increase over last year's average of \$340,257.

In addition, the total handle of \$212,598,246 for the 50 days was an increase of nearly \$7 million over last year's 51-day total handle of \$205,665,035.

The overall on-track handle also

increased despite one less day of live racing, finishing at \$17,646,973 compared to \$17,353,093 in 2023.

"It's a testament to the owners, trainers and the quality of racing that we were able to show an increase in handle once again," said Dennis Drazin, Chairman and CEO of Darby Development, LLC, lessee and operator of Monmouth Park. "With everything we have on the horizon, from the state-of-the-art Caesars Sportsbook now under construction to the development that is planned for the property, the future of Monmouth Park has never been brighter."

Haskell Day produced a record total handle of \$21,748,294 for the 14-race card, eclipsing the record set a year earlier. The crowd of 38,976 was the largest for Haskell Day since 2015.

Among the future enhancements to the facility is the 16,000 square

foot Caesars trackside sportsbook, which is currently under construction. Completion is scheduled for next year.

JEMB, of which Morris Bailly is the chairman of the board, has partnered with Darby Development and Monmouth Park to develop 80 acres of the track property, with plans calling for multi-family housing, a hotel and retail and youth sports facilities.

On the racing front, Lopez won his 11th Monmouth Park riding title overall and 10th in the past 12 years, finishing with 76 wins to 65 for runner-up Jairo Rendon.

Gonzalez won his third straight Monmouth Park training total, holding a 34-32 advantage over Mario Serey, Jr.

Robert Reidy, a Rumson resident, earned his first leading owner's title with 14 wins from 66 starts. Reidy has been an owner since 2010.



FOLLOW or LIKE
NJBREDS on.



THOROUGHbred BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY / 265 HIGHWAY 36, SUITE 1R, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764
TEL: 732-542-8880 / EMAIL: NJBREDS@GMAIL.COM / WWW.NJBREDS.COM

North Carolina



THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

November 2024

President's message

I am honored to introduce myself, Bonnie Herring, as the new President of North Carolina Thoroughbred Association. I will do my best to help guide the

NCTA to achieve its objectives. I look forward to working with North Carolina members and all Mid-Atlantic Associations members as well.

I want to thank Rebecca Montaldo for all her hard work and dedication to the NCTA during her time as president. She will be missed, and I hope to continue with the same enthusiasm and professionalism she had as president. We wish her

the best but will still rely on her for her knowledge of the North Carolina Thoroughbred Association.

NC Members, please see the attached forms that will need to be filled out and submitted back to the President along with fees if needed.

Thank you.

—Bonnie Herring

Race Results

Flat Out Flying – Winner at Parx Racing Aug. 27 - 1 mile and 70 yards on the dirt. Final time: 1:43.64. By Flat Out out of She's a Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge. Bred by Beth Muirhead, Frank Coniglio and Sid Ritman. Flat Out Flying broke slow, saved ground, angled out and continued to win.

Nabokov – Winner at Belterra Park Aug. 28 - 5½ furlongs on the dirt. Final time: 1:04.69. By Uncle Mo out of Peppy Rafaela, by Bernardini. Bred by Frank Batten. Nabokov had a rough start, advanced quickly and angled out for his second allowance win in a row.

Tinki Abarrio – Winner at Gulfstream Sept. 1 - 5 furlongs on the All-Weather Track. Final time: 56:89. By Run Happy out of Proud Dame, by Proud Accolade. Bred by Nancy Shuford. Tinki Abarrio lugged at the rail on back stretch, made time around the turn, cleared near the sixteenth pole and continued for the win.

Managing Mischief – Winner at Thistledown Sept. 5 - 6 furlongs on the dirt. Final time: 1:11.42. By Maximus Mischief out of Enchanting Essence, by Midshipman. Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership. Managing Mischief pressed on

the inside, angled out in the stretch to win the allowance by 5 lengths.

Come On Arlene – Winner at Belterra Park Sept. 6 - 5½ furlongs on the dirt. Final time: 1:06.34. By National Flag out of Cruise Liner, by Salt Lake. Owned by Caroline Cooper. Come On Arlene went straight to the front to win the 2-year-old maiden special weight by far the best by 7¼ lengths.

In Your Life – Winner at Los Alamitos Sept. 13 - 1 mile on the dirt. Final time: 1:38.70. By Mr. Speaker out of Dynamite Dame, by El Prado (Ire). Bred by Nancy Shuford. In Your Life dueled from outside, challenged by rivals at the half-mile pole, had a clear lead in the stretch to the wire.

Hitting the Board

August 25 – September 24, 2024

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Results
25-Aug	My Shea D Lady	Saratoga \$200K Fleet Indian Stakes	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boy's Stable	3rd
26-Aug	Taproom	Fort Erie	Owned by Bill Thompson	3rd
27-Aug	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	WINNER!
28-Aug	Nabokov	Belterra Park	Bred by Frank Batten	WINNER!
30-Aug	Termsofengagement	Penn National	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
1-Sep	Tinki Abarrio	Gulfstream Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
5-Sep	Managing Mischief	Thistledown	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	WINNER!
6-Sep	Motion Granted	Colonial Downs	Bred & owned by William Thompson, Jr	3rd
6-Sep	Come on Arlene	Belterra Park	Owned by Caroline Cooper	WINNER!
8-Sep	Zippin Pippin	Sweetwater County Fair \$20K Sue Wallis Stks	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
14-Sep	Gulfstream Way	Churchill Downs \$300K Louisville TB Society Stks	Bred by Denise Walsh	3rd
14-Sep	Atomic Blonde	Laurel Park \$100K All Along Stks	Owned by Caroline Cooper in partnership	2nd
16-Sep	Colonel Cooper	Thistledown	Owned by Caroline Cooper	2nd
13-Sep	In Your Life	Los Alamitos	Bred by Nancy Shuford	WINNER!
16-Sep	Taproom	Fort Erie	Owned by Bill Thompson	WINNER!
23-Sep	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	3rd

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____
FARM _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
E-MAIL _____
PHONE: HOME _____ CELL _____ WORK _____

- ☐ Jr. MEMBER - AGE 21 UNDER @ -0
☐ FARM @ \$80.00
☐ CORPORATE SPONSOR @ \$250.00
☐ INDIVIDUAL @ \$55.00
☐ SPONSOR @ \$140.00
☐ NON-PROFIT HORSE ASSOCIATIONS @ \$20.00 (covers cost of magazines)

Membership includes subscriptions to Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Magazine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in the Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

- ☐ Breeder ☐ Racing ☐ Steeplechase ☐ Boarding ☐ Foaling
☐ Lay-ups ☐ Race Training ☐ Racing Fan ☐ Showing ☐ Show Training
☐ Hunter/Jumper ☐ Eventing ☐ Dressage ☐ Pleasure ☐ Other _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: N.C.T.A.
MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Bonnie Herring,**
436 Sam Lowe Road, Siler City, NC 27344

Thank you for your support.

NORTH CAROLINA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

YOUR NAME OR FARM NAME _____

HORSES IN TRAINING - 2025

Please list the horses you have BRED or OWN that are in training or racing. The Association will put them into our stable on Daily Racing Form. We will keep up with them through this medium and have news for the association and for the Mid-Atlantic. We will only use horses that finish in the money.

This will let us know what our members are doing on the racing front and inform everyone about your successes.

I will still have to trust you to keep us informed regarding the breeding. I love receiving news on how the horses are doing, who you are breeding to, and how you did at the sales. It is hard to find the time to sit down and send me this information, BUT PLEASE TRY.

Please take the time to fill this out for your racing stock. Please list all horses, even the ones I already have, so I can keep our stable updated. Use another page if you need more room.

HORSE'S NAME _____ DAM _____ DOB _____ Bred/Own/Both ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME _____ DAM _____ DOB _____ ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME _____ DAM _____ DOB _____ ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME _____ DAM _____ DOB _____ ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME _____ DAM _____ DOB _____ ☐☐☐

Mail to: Bonnie Herring
NCTA
436 Sam Lowe Road
Siler City, NC 27344

Or send via E-mail at:
ncthoroughbred@gmail.com

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

Annual Nominations Award 2024

NOMINATE HORSES RUNNING IN 2024

Name _____

2024 Championship Category Owned or Bred	Horse's Name	Filly, Mare, Colt, Horse, Gelding	% of Ownership
NC Bred Horse (Breeder)			
Two-Year-Old Filly, Colt or Gelding			
Claiming - Male			
Claiming - Female			
Allowance - Male			
Allowance - Female			
Steeplechase Horse			
Champion Stakes Horse			
Champion Graded Stakes Horse of the Year			
Broodmare of the Year (must have been at least 50% owned by breeder at time of breeding)			

YOU CANNOT WIN UNLESS YOU NOMINATE!!!!

Owners of at least 25% of a horse can now claim 100% of the earnings.

Please take the time to report on your accomplishments. Any horse that ran in a race and finished in the money has the opportunity to win. Any broodmare whose offspring ran has a chance to win. Allow us to recognize you and your horses for these hard-earned and costly achievements. The Winner is based on money earnings. **The nominations must be to the committee by January 31, 2025**
Send to: Bonnie Herring, 436 Sam Lowe Road, Siler City, NC 27344 Phone 366-622-3089

You must send a copy of the nominated horse's Individual Lifetime PP's from the Daily Racing Form, Bloodstock Research or Equibase. A horse cannot be considered without the PP's. Equibase race results summary, race results charts and career stats are NOT considered supporting documents. The cost for PP's on Equibase is \$8.00 per report. A URL for a sample copy of an Individual Lifetime PP to view on Equibase is: <https://www.equibase.com/content/productpage/templates/freeracesample/50214.cfm>

Email: ncthoroughbred@gmail.com

**Find these forms
full-size online at
ncthoroughbred.com**

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(336) 622-3089 • www.ncthoroughbred.com •
ncthoroughbred@gmail.com • 436 Sam Lowe Road, Siler
City, NC 27344

Bonnie Herring, president

Linda Epley, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer

Directors:

Arlee Arkofa, Caroline Cooper, Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- Racing and breeding news
- PA-Bred entries/results
- Rules, regulations, forms

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-1050
www.pabred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gregory C. Newell, PE
Vice President: Douglas Black
Secretary: Deanna Manfredi
Treasurer: Katherine Rightmyer-O'Brien

Mike Chovanes VMD
Peter Giangulio
Kathryn Goldenberg
Robert Graham
Justine Howell
Roger E. Legg
Elizabeth Merryman
Brian Schartz
Richard Simoff

Uptowncharlybrown surpasses \$10 million in progeny earnings

By Nikki Sherman



Over the Fourth of July weekend this year, Uptowncharlybrown's offspring surpassed \$10 million in progeny earnings. For a stallion with humble beginnings at stud, this is a tremendous feat.

On July 8, his ownership syndicate sent out an email from managing partner Bob Hutt, whose excitement was palpable. "While you were sleeping this past weekend, Uptowncharlybrown accomplished something I never could have dreamed of in my lifetime," he wrote. "Let's turn back the clock a few years, shall we?"

Uptowncharlybrown is by Limehouse, himself a millionaire while racing who won as early as April of his 2-year-old season and went on to capture graded stakes races through age 4, from distances ranging 4½ furlongs to 1½ miles. Limehouse even finished

fourth in the 2004 Kentucky Derby behind Smarty Jones. Unfortunately, Limehouse was never able to replicate his talent while at stud.

Uptowncharlybrown may have been his best chance, but the colt's racing career was marred by unfortunate events. After two victories by a combined 15 lengths to start his career, his ownership syndicate Fantasy Lane Stable started receiving offers in the seven figures. Instead of selling, they chose to keep their prized Triple Crown prospect. Shortly into Uptowncharlybrown's sophomore season, his trainer Alan Seewald unexpectedly passed away in his sleep, disrupting his training routine leading up to the biggest races of his career. Uptowncharlybrown finished fifth of 12 in the \$1,000,000 Belmont Stakes-G1 but was disqualified

after racing officials discovered that an eight-pound lead weight had somehow fallen out of its casing near the seven-eighths pole, meaning the colt carried eight pounds less than his rivals for the rest of the race. While training for the Haskell Invitational-G1, Uptowncharlybrown suffered a soft tissue injury and was forced to the sidelines for 14 months. While he did return to the races, he could never return to his former brilliance.

The chestnut stallion entered stud in 2013 in Pennsylvania but was not a commercial option by any means. With only two wins and \$125,030 in earnings, his success needed to come from his owners. Nobody was more driven than Bob Hutt, the managing partner of Fantasy Lane Stable. Alan Seewald had been Hutt's best friend and he was determined to keep Seewald's memory alive through Uptowncharlybrown. In fact, the very first foal to be born was named even before conception: Alan's Legacy.

"I reached out to 50 individual partners that believed in me as we each put up \$400 to make Uptowncharlybrown a stallion," Hutt said last year. "That's \$20,000 total! Compare that to other stallion syndicates that buy 125, 150 (\$50 million) proven, regally-bred mares. For our \$20,000, we started with just seven unproven maiden broodmares; three of which had never

even made it to the races. I figured we'd have a couple of cheap claimers and have some fun."

The first few crops had the whole Mid-Atlantic region talking. The aforementioned Alan's Legacy did make it to the races, earning six figures and even breaking his maiden by 22½ lengths. Uptowncharlybrown's first winner was True Sweetheart, who was out of the unraced mare Moonlight Serenade (Malibu Moon). That mare produced many full siblings to True Sweetheart, led by Grade 3 heroine Dixie Serenade. Since then, both Moonlight Serenade and Dixie Serenade have been accepted for breeding to some of the highest quality stallions in the country.

Godric LLC also bred mares to Uptowncharlybrown and the cross with the Speightstown mare Torchwood proved to be excellent. Full brothers Midtowncharlybrown and Midnightcharly, her first two foals from the sire's first two crops, not only became stakes winners but were also archrivals in the same sprint stakes races. Midtowncharlybrown was the most successful son of Uptowncharlybrown, capturing 11 races, including four stakes, and earning nearly \$600,000 over 33 starts.

And then Wait for It, out of the Posse mare Kimberley Diamond, found his best stride.

He won from distances of 5½ furlongs to 1¼ miles, winning over \$725,000 to bounce Midtowncharlybrown as Uptowncharlybrown's leading earner. Wait For It captured 12 of 40 starts, including four stakes. Back-to-back victories in Presque Isle Downs' Hard Spun Stakes over the all weather surface and multiple stakes-placings on turf boosted his and his sire's versatility factor. He now has a December stakes race at Parx Racing named after him: the \$100,000 Wait For It Stakes.

Along the way, Fantasy Lane Stable chose to rebrand as Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC, both an homage to its prized stallion as well as a marketing tool.

Since then, breeders have taken notice and sent their own mares to Uptowncharlybrown. And at auctions like the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale, where owners and trainers are often looking for promising PA-Breds, sons and daughters of Uptowncharlybrown are regularly pulled from their stalls for analysis by potential buyers. Oxana was purchased for \$65,000 at that sale and became a stakes winner of \$336,010. Uptown Amanda rewarded her owners for their \$27,000 purchase with an immediate maiden special weight victory by 4¾ lengths. And there's also \$32,000 purchase

Continued on page 4

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Congratulations to the Blackstone Farm-bred Roses for Debra, who set the track record at Presque Isle Downs while winning the \$400,000 G2 Masters Stakes. During opening weekend of Keeneland, Our Shot, bred by Dr. S. Mark Rayburg Inc., recorded his first graded stakes victory in the \$350,000 G2 Woodford Stakes. At the Maryland Million, it was a Pennsylvania-bred who stole the show in the Distaff. Foxy Junior, a homebred for Dianne Stern, won her second straight stakes in the \$100,000 Maryland Million Distaff. She took the \$100,000 Plum Pretty Stakes at Parx last out and is now five-for-six on the year for trainer Bernard Houghton.

On PA Derby Day, Sept. 21, four \$100,000 PA-Bred Stakes were run, including our two PA-Sired PA-Bred Series kickoff races won by the Warrior's Reward LLC-bred The Boy's Warrior and Pewter Stable-bred Honorable Win. The sired series races

for 2yos and 2yo fillies will carry a \$50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: \$25,000 for first, \$15,000 for second and \$10,000 for third. This bonus will be paid after the 3yo races in 2025. The next races in the series are scheduled for Dec. 30 at PARX.

The Alphabet Soup Handicap on Sept. 21 was won by the Ascoli Piceno-bred Crisper and the Plum Pretty Stakes by Stern's Foxy Junior, who came right back to win the Maryland Million Distaff. Congrats to all the connections.

We have four new stallions coming to PA for the 2025 breeding season. The millionaire, graded stakes-winning, Munnings-sired Zozos; Imposing, the first son of Gun Runner standing outside of Kentucky and out of champion five-time Grade 1 winner (including the Breeders' Cup Distaff) Untapable; PA's own son of Weigelia and winner of over \$900,000,

Beren; and Enticed, a multiple graded stakes-winning son of Medaglia d'Oro and multiple G1 winner It's Tricky. Take a look at the new additions and a 40% breeder award.

If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless the beginning of 2025. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Wishing you a fantastic finish to 2024, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Over \$30 million paid out in 2024 to PA-Bred owners and breeders in Breeder Awards, Owner Bonuses and Restricted Races. Go PA!!



Coming in 2025
**PENNSYLVANIA
YEARLING SHOW!**

WHERE:

Brandywine Polo Club
232 Polo Road,
Toughkenamon, PA 19374

WHEN:

Saturday, June 21st 2025,
from 10:00am to 3:00pm



Four classes featuring
PA-Sired males and fillies and
Non-PA-Sired males and fillies

**Prizes and trophies
available in each class!**

\$50 entry fee before June 1st,
\$75 late entry fee after June 1st

*Stay tuned for more details
and sponsorship opportunities!*



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

Visit pabred.com for more information | #PABred on social media



Please contact our office at

610.444.1050
with any questions

Confirmed Star, who not only broke her maiden by 11½ lengths in this past April, but also has two more allowance scores this year.

Now that Uptowncharlybrown has older offspring, he has had a small number of opportunities as a broodmare sire as well. Leading those runners is stakes-placed Broadwaycharlyrose, herself out of the stakes-placed, four-time winner Charlybrown's Rose. Also

on the list are multi-winner Now Act Surprised and stakes-placed One Eyed Jackie. All three fillies are by the Speightstown stallion Eastwood, using the successful cross that resulted in Midtowncharlybrown and Midnightcharly.

Back in July, when Hutt finished his email about Uptowncharlybrown, it was with pride. It had started out whimsically and ended similarly. "Alan (Seewald) was correct in that he was

the best of his generation. With his 10th crop, nine of racing age, he has done the impossible. Uptowncharlybrown's sons and daughters surpassed ten million dollars in progeny earnings. He currently stands this morning at \$10,002,912.

"Alan up in heaven, you were 100% correct in that Uptowncharlybrown is and was the best horse we've ever owned."

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through August 31, 2024

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	439,786	116,649	556,436	Pewter Stable	102,656	31,356	134,012
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	329,351	152,033	481,384	Sylmar Farm Inc.	130,542	0	130,542
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	214,376	73,789	288,165	Joseph Imbesi	123,125	0	123,125
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	271,340	271,340	Barbara A. Rickline	80,167	13,367	93,534
Blackstone Farm LLC	218,701	0	218,701	William J. Solomon VMD	50,370	40,693	91,063
Glenn E. Brok LLC	169,360	44,727	214,087	Richard Miller	72,862	15,967	88,829
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	69,369	107,089	176,458	Godstone Farm LLC	88,418	0	88,418
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	143,030	0	143,030	St. Omer's Farm	82,306	0	82,306

LEADING STALLIONS

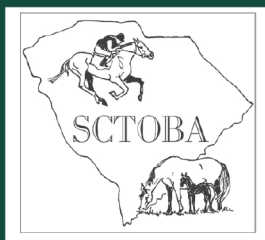
Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	352	152,033	Winchill	Pewter Stable	91	31,356
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	293	116,649	Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	88	29,647
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	215	103,691	Talent Search	Glenn E Brok LLC	48	28,149
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	207	102,728	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	46	21,828
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	247	97,182	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	57	20,738
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	128	75,045	Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	28	15,967
Peace and Justice	Steven W Young Racing LLC	154	73,789	Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	61	15,609
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	146	36,878	Boisterous	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC	79	14,542

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments. *Denotes PA-sired

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	2	114,000	22,800	0	0	136,800
Traders Luck *	Weigelia - Deanies Dancer	Sylmar Farm Inc.	7	20,000	51,176	12,794	30,840	114,810
Fierce and Strong *	Hoppertunity - Doubleclickdamouse	Ultra Championship Racing LLC	4	62,220	35,060	8,765	6,250	112,295
Twilight Dancer	Tapiture - Moonlight Basin	Warriors Reward	7	58,200	27,160	0	13,900	99,260
Irish Cork	Flat Out - Circustown Rose	Two-Turn Farm LLC	5	58,800	20,776	0	12,880	92,456
Gordian Knot *	Social Inclusion - Mia	Joseph Imbesi	2	61,620	23,520	5,880	0	91,020
Smooth B *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	3	60,000	24,000	6,000	0	90,000
Dontlookbackatall *	Peace and Justice - Celtic Arch	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	1	55,200	22,080	5,520	0	82,800
Capo *	Peace and Justice - Seven Dreams	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	7	38,000	27,923	6,981	9,088	81,992
Rosie's Alibi	Justify - Essential Rose	Blackstone Farm LLC	3	57,000	19,890	0	4,650	81,540
Confirmed Star *	Uptowncharlybrown - Its My Town	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	6	0	52,840	13,210	14,200	80,250
Catty's Uncle *	Uncle Lino - Just Catty	Sebastiano Ciaccio	9	0	43,920	10,980	25,200	80,100
Far Mo Power *	Uncle Lino - J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	3	52,800	21,120	5,280	0	79,200
Respirator *	Peace and Justice - La Padrina	Dennis Johnson	8	0	43,776	10,944	24,240	78,960



South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

Racing Across the Nation

Four South Carolina training center graduates found their way to the winner's circle following Stakes races between Aug. 25 and Sept. 14.

The Travis Durr Training Center in St. Matthews saw two graduates win stakes at Monmouth Park Aug. 25. In a hard fought victory, **Riding Pretty** proved best in the Eleven North Handicap. This was her second career stakes win. Riding Pretty took the lead after the opening quarter mile and was involved in a head-to-head duel deep into the stretch before prevailing by a length.

A few hours earlier, **Sea Streak** also captured his second career stakes victory in the Charles Hesse III Handicap. Following some bumping at the start, Sea Streak ran comfortably down the backside. He took the lead at the top of the stretch and held the rest off, crossing the finish line 1½ lengths in front. In only 10 career starts, he has earned \$309,110.

In his 41st career start, **Irish Cork** won the Storm Cat Stakes at Parx Racing Aug. 26. He trailed the field for the first half mile then began to launch his bid, collaring the leader in midstretch and pulling away to cross the finish line 2½ lengths in front. Irish Cork learned his early lessons in Erhardt under the care of Randy and Kala Rentz. Irish Cork has eight wins, 11 seconds and eight thirds in his 41 starts while earning \$530,222.

Post Time, who went through the breaking process in Aiken under the watchful eye of Cary Frommer, proved much the best in the Polynesian Stakes at Laurel Park Sept. 14, winning by 11½ lengths. This was Post Time's sixth career stakes win. He is a two-time graded winner, having captured the General George Stakes-G3 at Laurel and the

Carter Stakes-G2 at Aqueduct earlier this year. In 13 career starts, Post Time has

nine wins, two seconds and two thirds with career earnings of \$997,910.

Travis Durr graduates dominate Monmouth Park's Charles Hesse III Handicap

Travis Durr and his crew pulled off an amazing accomplishment Aug. 25 at Monmouth Park. The top four finishers in the Charles Hesse III Handicap were all graduates of the Travis Durr Training Center. The winner was

Sea Streak, followed by Amatteroftime, No Cents and Great Navigator.

Sea Streak, who won by 1½ lengths, is now a two-time stakes winner, having been best in the Long Branch Stakes, also at Monmouth Park, in May.

Kip Elser's Kirkwood Equine Advisory

Kirkwood Equine Advisory manages a number of active racing, pinhooking and broodmare partnerships at various levels. Each partner receives regular communications, including photos and videos, on each of their horses, and Kip is always available to answer questions.

For more information on current offerings, email kip@kirkwoodadvisory.com. For more about other services, which include Acquisitions & Sales and Portfolio Management, visit the website <https://kirkwoodadvisory.com/#services>.

South Carolina Active at Keeneland

South Carolinians were active at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Travis Durr is a member of the Legion Bloodstock team, and that group signed 16 tickets. Purchased were colts by War Front, Maclean's Music, McKinzie, Upstart, Charlatan, Dialed In, Raging Bull and Omaha Beach. For clients, Legion Bloodstock bought fillies by Yaupon (2), Bolt d'Oro, Silver State, Oscar Performance, Nyquist and Mitole. Many of these yearlings will go through the breaking process at the Travis Durr Training Center.

Bobby, Debby and Jason McCutchen bought colts by Thousand Words and Bee Jersey and a filly by Thousand Words in the name of McCutchen Training Center.

Jamie Carter and Steven Carter, son of Jamie's brother, Wes, bought a colt by Tapit, and Jamie and Wes purchased a filly by Liam's Map.

Marcus and Crystal Ryan signed the ticket for an Honor A. P. colt under their Mason Springs banner in partnership with Tom Garcia.

Debut Winners

Both the Rentz Farm Training Center and the Travis Durr Training Center saw graduates win first time out in August and September. Randy and Kala Rentz prepared Dansk, a winner at

Parx Racing Aug. 26; The Boys Warrior, winner at Presque Isle Downs Aug. 28; and Ridge Warrior, who proved best in his debut at Parx Sept. 10.

Travis Durr's former students Colonel Bob won his debut at Parx Aug. 20, and Cool Spite crossed the finish line first at Monmouth Park Aug. 25.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	Training Center	Date	Track	Type of Race
Colonel Bob	Travis Durr Training Ctr	08/20/24	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Twilight Dancer	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/21/24	Presque Isle	Allowance
Lavinia Spirit	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/21/24	Penn National	Allowance
Equistar	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/23/24	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Little J P	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/25/24	Grand Prairie	Allowance
SEA STREAK	Travis Durr Training Ctr	08/25/24	Monmouth Park	Charles Hesse III S
RIDING PRETTY	Travis Durr Training Ctr	08/25/24	Monmouth Park	Eleven North H
Proud Mule	Travis Durr Training Ctr	08/25/24	Monmouth Park	Allowance
Cool Spite	Travis Durr Training Ctr	08/25/24	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight
Uncle Winchester	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/26/24	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Kohler's	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/26/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Dansk	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/26/24	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
IRISH CORK	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/26/24	Parx Racing	Storm Cat S
Unicorn Cake	Travis Durr Training Ctr	08/26/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Tarsus Warrior	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/27/24	Presque Isle	Maiden Special Weight
Freedom Eagle	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/27/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
The Boys Warrior	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/28/24	Presque Isle	Maiden Special Weight
Lucky Speech	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/29/24	Kentucky Downs	Allowance
Two's a Crowd	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/29/24	Saratoga	Allowance
Made to Hustle	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/29/24	Penn National	Allowance
Here U Come Again	Travis Durr Training Ctr	08/29/24	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Sultry Sally H	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/30/24	Timonium	Allowance
Ratatat	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/31/24	Belterra Park	Allowance
Macho Music	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	08/31/24	Gulfstream Park	Maiden Special Weight
Winninonweekends	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	09/02/24	Parx Racing	Allowance
Coin Jar	Travis Durr Training Ctr	09/02/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Sassy Melissa	Travis Durr Training Ctr	09/05/24	Woodbine	Allowance
Ready for the Lady	Arch Kingsley	09/05/24	Colonial Downs	Allowance
Mosler Time	Travis Durr Training Ctr	09/07/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
Little J P	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	09/08/24	Lethbridge RMTc	Allowance
Circle P	Travis Durr Training Ctr	09/08/24	Laurel Park	Allowance
King's Leap	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	09/09/24	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Shy Da Runner	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	09/09/24	Presque Isle	Allowance
Shezanarticqueen	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	09/09/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Lika Rolling Stone	Travis Durr Training Ctr	09/09/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Right Wing Runner	Rentz Farm Training Ctr	09/10/24	Finger Lakes	Allowance



VIRGINIA

JOCKEY MANNY FRANCO DOMINATES ON VIRGINIA DERBY DAY AT COLONIAL DOWNS

The 27-day Colonial Downs summer racing season — its second under Churchill Downs ownership — concluded September 7 with Virginia Derby Day festivities and a showstopping performance by jockey Manny Franco.

St. Elias Stable, Ken Langone, Steven Duncker, and Vicarage Stable's Deterministic showed off his late kick on the Secretariat Turf Course, running down Grand Mo the First to win the Grade 3 \$500,000 New Kent County Virginia Derby by a neck. Trained by Christophe Clement, who also sent out Style Points, the dead heat co-winner of the Virginia Oaks, Deterministic was piloted by Franco who won five stakes and seven races total on the card.

"Every time I come prepared with a good mind, which gives me a good chance to win races," Franco said. "I had a big day today. I want to say thanks to all the trainers who brought me here. I'm just happy. All the horses were running good. The turf course is perfect. After each race I just kept looking forward to keep my momentum going."

After breaking sharply, Deterministic settled nicely and ran with cover in mid-pack. Coming out of the turn, he was in traffic while Grand Mo the First tipped off the rail to bid by the new leaders. Daylight opened and Deterministic seized it, finding his late kick and running down Grand Mo the First.

The top two Virginia Derby runners both qualified for Kentucky Derby 150 back in May. When the connections of Deterministic decided not to run, it opened a spot in the starting gates for Granpollo Stable's Grand Mo the First's run for the roses.

In a nail-biting edition of the \$250,000 Woodford Reserve Virginia Oaks, Cheyenne Stable's Style Points and John Gunther and Eurowest Bloodstock Services' Deep Satin duelled down the stretch and were declared dead heat winners. Style Points is trained by Christophe Clement and was ridden by Franco while Deep Satin is trained by Cherie DeVaux and had Mychel Sanchez up. The pair covered the 1 1/8 miles in 1:47.15.



Deterministic wins the Virginia Derby at Colonial Downs (Coady Media).

Making his North American debut, Hollywood Syndicate's South African import Isivunguvungu was an impressive victor in the \$150,000 Korbel Da Hoss Stakes. The Group 1 winner was transferred to trainer Graham Motion at the beginning of the year with a run in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint in mind.

"I can't say enough about what a good effort this was today," Motion said. "He spent two months in quarantine at the beginning of the year. He is a very special horse. He has a big following in South Africa and I am so happy for those guys. Super happy for the Hollywood Syndicate. Manny (Franco) gave him a great ride. He's a lovely horse. They've just lifted some of those quarantine restrictions on South African horses. I think we are going to see a lot more South African horses, especially after the performance of this horse. South African horses by nature are very tough. Huge credit to Hollywood Syndicate for taking a gamble on bringing him over here. I feel very lucky to have him."

Last year's Da Hoss winner Nobals went on to win the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. "November is not that far off, and he ran a big race today," Motion added. "We have to decide if we are going to run him again; we have to decide if he is going to be able to get in the Breeders' Cup, which is what we'd really like to do."



Jockey Manny Franco won five stakes races on Virginia Derby Day at Colonial (Coady Media).

COLONIAL DOWNS COMPLETES 2024 SUMMER MEET; NEW SPRING MEET & EXPANDED SUMMER MEET IN STORE FOR 2025

Over the course of 27 live race days in New Kent, 250 races were conducted including the \$1 million Grade 1 Arlington Million, the Grade 2 \$500,000 Beverly D. and Grade 2 \$500,000 Secretariat Stakes during Colonial Downs' annual Festival of Racing program August 11. Virginia's thoroughbred track now prepares for a new three-day spring meet in March 2025 (pending VRC approval), anchored by the Virginia Derby on Saturday, March 15.

The 2025 Virginia Derby has earned the distinction as a "win and you're in" qualifying race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby. Virginia's Derby has traditionally been a turf race that signified the culmination of the summer racing season. Next year, as part of a 50-point race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, the Virginia Derby will transition to the dirt track. The winning horse will be guaranteed a post position in the starting gate for the 151st Kentucky Derby on May 3.

"We are thankful for the investment of Churchill Downs in the Virginia horseracing industry. In 2025, Colonial Downs will race 47 days which is up from 27 days in 2022, the last race meet before Churchill Downs acquired Colonial Downs," said Matt Lohr, Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry.

"It is exciting that the road to the 2025 Kentucky Derby will run through Virginia," said Gary Palmisano, Vice President of Racing at CDI. "Churchill Downs Incorporated is proud of our investments in the racing operation and fan experience at Colonial Downs and are committed to elevating Virginia's profile within the sport. Racing is thriving in Virginia, and is poised to keep growing."

Irish-born jockey Ben Curtis claimed the summer meet championship with twenty-four victories. Mike Trombetta was the winningest trainer with fifteen victories, while global powerhouse Godolphin edged Virginia stalwart Larry Johnson as the top winning owner of the meet. The track also hosted its annual "Virginia Champions Day" which highlighted the growth and strength of Virginia's \$2 billion equine industry with



Style Points & Deep Satin duel en route to a dead heat finish in the Virginia Oaks (Coady Media).

special races just for Virginia-bred, -sired, and -certified horses. These Virginia-restricted races are a key part of the efforts by state industry stakeholders to strengthen Virginia's equine industry.

VIRGINIA'S FALL STEEPLECHASE SEASON IS IN FULL SWING; MYSTIC STRIKE PREVAILS IN BATTLE OF THE AGES

Virginia's fall steeplechase season kicked off with the Foxfield Races in Charlottesville October 6 followed by the Virginia Fall Races in Middleburg a week later. The International Gold Cup, normally held at Great Meadow in The Plains, has been moved to Glenwood Park in Middleburg this year and will be contested on Sunday October 27 without pari-mutuel wagering. The season culminates with the Montpelier Hunt Races, held at James Madison's Montpelier, on Saturday November 2.

Featured jump race as of press time was the \$50,000 National Sporting Library & Museum Cup in Middleburg when the two grand old men of timber racing — with a combined 21 stakes victories — battled it out. When the dust cleared it was 15-year-old Mystic Strike who got the best of the current champion Schoodic, age 14.

Schoodic, owned by Dolly Fisher and trained by her son, Jack, had the lead for much of the 3 1/4 miles under Graham Watters as Upland Partners' Mystic Strike and Gerard Galligan stalked in third just behind the pacesetter. He drew even with Schoodic two fences from home, leading the downhill charge before the uphill run to the final fence and maintained his advantage to the wire, withstanding a vigorous rush by his Todd McKenna-trained stablemate Hard Strike (Harry Beswick). The margin of victory was 2 1/4 lengths. Charlie Fenwick's Royal Ruse

(Parker Hendriks) got up for third as Schoodic tired.

With the win, Mystic Strike went over the \$400,000 career earnings mark. The victory was the ninth in a stakes race for the Florida-bred son of turf star Smart Strike and his 36th top-three finish in 52 outings since beginning his career 12 years ago. Mystic Strike ran his first race at Calder in Florida in 2012, continuing his flat career for 23 races through 2014. Since switching to jumps, he has amassed a dozen wins, eight seconds, and two thirds.

NEW HHR GAMING RESORT SET TO OPEN IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Rose, Colonial Downs' new gaming resort in Dumfries is nearing completion at its nearly 100-acre site just off I-95 in Northern Virginia. The facility, expected to open in early November, will be the largest of any Rosie's Gaming Emporium, by far. It will house 1,650 Historical Horse Racing (HHR) terminals, eight bars/restaurants, 102 hotel rooms initially, 2,530 parking spots, meeting and event space, and an OTB with a capacity of 171. In Phase two, additional hotel rooms will be added along with an entertainment and convention center. A total of 480 team members will be employed.

Compared to its seven other Rosie's locations in the state, The Rose has more of an upscale decor and atmosphere and will feature HHR machines from 11 different manufacturers. Food and beverage will play a more important role with a much bigger footprint. Projected handle is \$2.2 billion in its first year. Funding for thoroughbred purses is driven mainly by expansion of HHR terminals in the marketplace so this is great news for the industry moving forward.



Rider Gerard Galligan and Mystic Strike in the winner's circle at the Middleburg Fall races (Douglas Lees photo)

VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

President: Amy Moore Vice-President: Turner Kobayashi Treasurer: Sara Miller Past President: Susan Cooney Executive Director: Debbie Easter

Directors: Christina Applegate, Donna Dennehy, Chris Gracie, Alan Hutchinson, Larry Johnson, Chris Kuhn, Diane Manning, Diana McClure, Andrew Motion, Sarah Nagle, Pat Shepherd, Laura Smith, Wayne Chatfield Taylor, Wayne VanSant

Visit www.vabred.org—the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news

For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.

250 West Main Street, Suite 100, Charlottesville, VA 22902 | (434) 977-3716





West Virginia

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

November 2024

Alpha names honored amid an uncharted future

By Jeff Gilleas

John McKee Memorial

The hunt for the next big female and male headliners began Friday, Sept. 20, and Saturday, Sept. 21, in the \$75,000 John McKee Memorial and Henry Mercer Memorial Stakes, respectively.

Many outfits appeared to be playing a dangerous game of catch up as the West Virginia Breeders Classics were literally around the corner.

With the distance of 6½ furlongs slated for the juveniles on Breeders Classics night, it's hard to embrace 4½-furlong races as true preps, but in this game you play the hand your dealt.

It will take a masterful piece of training to ask inexperienced runners for an unexpected increase in stamina, as they mentally adjust to a two-turn mindset.

In his day, John McKee was a trainer that ruled the local 2-year-old division, with an occasional pilgrimage north to New York and New Jersey.

His run and gun philosophy combined with an early plan of attack in conditioning was successfully employed by the popular horseman.

Dressed up by circumstance, Diakonissa, a daughter of Preservationist out of Florid, was the 6-5 favorite for owner Ultra Championship Racing.

The most seasoned competitor in the eight-horse field, Diakonissa was fortunate to run out of her stall, as she needed every ounce of energy to defeat Boss Lady K P in a knockdown brawl.

Foaled in West Virginia by breeder Michael Furr, the dark bay/brown filly was in front at first call, but quickly displaced by her stablemate Flying to Neptune.

As the black-type seeking youngsters flashed by the Inn at Charles Town, Boss Lady K P assumed the lead under a rail-skimming ride by Wilfredo Santiago.

Diakonissa handily tracked in third, unfurled a vigorous move towards the leader at the eighth pole, but needed every inch of Charles Town's 660-foot stretch, and jockey Arnaldo Bocachica's aggressiveness, to get her picture taken.

Trained by Anthony Farrior, the \$7,000 yearling purchase proved in victory that speed is not her only weapon, and her newfound ability to rate could prove advantageous at extended distances.

Henry Mercer Memorial

Saturday, Sept. 21, witnessed an epic confrontation between Im the Director and Annapolis Road in the featured Henry Mercer Memorial.

The new kids on the block were only a week removed from victorious maiden efforts, not an ideal scenario to mature and thrive; but this was the last bridge prior to the Classics.

At time of entry, Im the Director was rumored to have only a 50-50 chance of starting, due to his demanding 12-length win at 6½ furlongs nine days previously.

After consulting with her team, owner-trainer Cyndy McKee opted to run, and the full brother to Direct the Cat avenged a debatable

disqualification suffered in his disruptive maiden score.

Breaking like he was shot out of a cannon under Marshall Mendez, the son of Redirect out of Cat Thats Grey set a pressured pace, dictated terms from his inside position and gained the nod under a brisk left-handed crop.

Runnerup Annapolis Road, pounded down to 1-5 favoritism, appeared poised to pounce on the seeming sacrificial pace lamb, but could not summon a final surge to get in front of the more experienced John McKee bred.

The performances of both runners inspired racegoers to dream of a rematch three weeks to the day on West Virginia Breeders Classics night.

Well thought of Equibase chart caller and astute handicapper Mike Sassin glared at the press box squad and while shaking his head said, "A 2-year-old wins by 12 lengths, runs 6½ furlongs in 1:19 and you boys let him pay \$14 tonight?"

My sentiments exactly, Mike!

Kenneth Lowe Jr.

A man who was equally at home sitting in the grandstand listening to a groom chronicle his plight in life, to strolling the Halls of Charleston seeking an audience with the Governor, Ken Lowe was a politician, entrepreneur, real estate mogul, breeder and ally to the horsemen.

The Chairman of the West Virginia Racing Commission passed unexpectedly on Tuesday, Sept. 3. He was 75.

We now face a dramatic void in the culture of legislative humanity, alongside the potential for a turbulent future in horse racing, as the humble man who vociferously and compassionately stood-up against the powers to be in our sport is gone.

Ken Lowe was a pro staunch supporter of Lasix, unquestionable leader in the battle against National

Governmental Control of the industry (HISA), and firmly entrenched in the resolve that his home tracks of Charles Town and Mountaineer Park have a significant role in the scheme of Thoroughbred horse racing.

The self-proclaimed Mayor of Shepherdstown, avid sports fan, and devoted family man, also served as president of the local chapter of the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

Ken was a consummate negotiator, and while proprietor of the Clarion Hotel hosted the 2000 Israeli-Syrian peace talks attended by legendary President of the United States Bill Clinton and celebrated Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

Certain people impact your life professionally and personally.

In my two decades of living in West by God Virginia my steadfast instructors, colleagues and foremost friends were John McKee, Cyndy McKee and Kenneth Lowe Jr.

They gave life meaning and matched my love of horses.

Today, grief is profound for the losses of John McKee and Ken Lowe, however they imparted humor, dynamic character and comforting words that eventually will transcend my sadness.

Both men were inspirational in encouraging my hand at writing,

and Ken recently offered this sage advice about dealing with negativity. "Son you remind me of myself. . . quixotic. Hundreds of people enjoy what you wrote, but you focus on the one detractor that stabbed you in the journalistic heart. That's because you're obsessed and humbled by your subject matter. . . racing. Mark Twain once said, 'a Man's character may be learned from the adjectives which he habitually uses in conversation. From now on, if anyone complains about your use of two-dollar words, tell them to purchase a dictionary.'" Go with God, my Friend!

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-6868

Fax: (304) 724-7870

www.wvtba.com

Office location:

202 East Liberty St., Charles Town, WV 25414.

Hours: 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

Cynthia McKee, *President*

Mary Sell, *Vice-President*

Nicole Brown, *Treasurer*

Judy Grams, *Secretary*

Directors: Tim Collins, Javier Contreras,

Leslie Cromer, Karen Freer,

John Funkhouser, Elizabeth Meehan,

David Walters

Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse *Some of the best incentives in the nation!*

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- The West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes over \$4.5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost \$1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- \$800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

— Classifieds —

BOARDING/FOALING/LAYUPS

DAYDREAM FARM: Hamburg, PA. Rehabs, layups and sales prep. Personalized care. Odyssey Proformance. Trainer on farm. Broodmares and foaling. Reasonable rates, references available. www.daydreamfarmpa.com. Call (610) 780-0972.

YOUR FOALS NEED STRONG BONE! Board your Thoroughbred broodmare at historic farm rich in limestone near Frederick, MD. Competitive rates. Call or text Sean (301) 471-9221.

HELP WANTED

BROODMARE MANAGER: Northview Stallion Station is seeking a Broodmare Manager. Successful candidate will be responsible for foaling, teasing, record keeping, staff management, communicating with clients and veterinarians. Excellent opportunity for the right person. Please send resume to info@northviewstallions.com or fax to 410 885 5985.

HORSES FOR SALE

MARE & WEANLING: Stakes-placed Mis Vizcaya (Successful Appeal), a near-\$100K earner, and her very nice 2024 filly by Rowayton (Into Mischief). Call 804-731-1167.

Educating and conditioning the complete horse

**Mind, Body
& Spirit**



WES CARTER TRAINING STABLE

803.664.4101

WesCarterTraining@earthlink.net

Bamberg, SC

Land & Farm Properties

Maryland • Delaware • Pennsylvania

**Selling Horse Farms
for 40 years and counting
A. John Price**



302-379-6318

A
DIVISION
OF



888-909-FARM

Celebrating 40+ Years!

**STITCHES
by**



- Jockey Colors
- Blinkers
- Saddle Cloths
- Embroidery

**Cathy Morse
(410) 562-5066**

sttchsbychloe@hotmail.com

www.stitchesbychloe.net

Check us out on FaceBook

Moving Forward Farm, LLC

Grantville, PA

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ Lay Ups | ✓ Exercise Machine |
| ➤ Rehabilitations | ✓ Pool |
| ➤ Breaking | (Heated Building) |
| ➤ Legging Up | ✓ 3/8 training track |
| ➤ Sales Prep | |

Conveniently located behind Penn National Racecourse.

Reasonable rates.

717-644-3413 or 570-640-4746

Helmore Farm

**Get your yearlings
started right!**

We specialize in starting horses for the track and restarting OTTBs for new careers. Plus we have a great place for layups—small paddocks, solid round pen and abundant turnout. Call Becky Cory for details and pricing—

410-259-3516



— Looking Back —

10 years ago

■ Maryland legend Cigar, who died at 24, was remembered in words and photos. “While it’s sad to lose a Thoroughbred, Cigar’s legacy remains firmly alive,” wrote editor Joe Clancy. “The Maryland-bred lifted an industry. The state stood tall as the producer of such a horse. The region came along for the ride. Cigar traveled. He took on the world’s best. In one of racing’s best public-relations moves – ever – he paraded at the National Horse Show in New York’s Madison Square Garden.” Cigar lived out his retirement at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Cigar’s regular rider, Jerry Bailey, said after the champion’s passing: “Being a jockey was a means to an end for me. And for the first half of my career, until Cigar, I had like a doctor-patient relationship. I rode the horses. I worked them out in the morning, and I went home. There was nothing else – until Cigar. He made me fall in love with horses.”

■ Bayern played spoiler in the Pennsylvania Derby-G2 while Untapable made it look

easy in the Grade 1 Cotillion at Parx Racing.

Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner California Chrome came in off a dead-heat fourth in the Belmont Stakes. Beforehand, trainer Art Sherman predicted “an honest pace” and doubted that Kaleem Shah’s



Bayern heads to the post for the Pennsylvania Derby at Parx in 2014.

Haskell winner Bayern would “be out there on his lonesome.” He was proven wrong as Bayern cruised home in 1:46.96 for 1½ miles, breaking a record which stood since 1974.

Untapable – although unsuccessful in the Haskell – came into the Cotillion off four consecutive graded scores against fillies. Under Rosie Napravnik, Winchell Thoroughbreds’ homebred recorded her third Grade 1 of the year, to go with victories in the Kentucky Oaks and Mother Goose.

■ Maryland-breds were a strong part of Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale at Timonium. Northview Stallion Station’s Flatter colt out of American victory topped the sale at \$260,000 on a bid by the Hillwood Stable of Ellen Charles. A Pure Prize filly from Dark Hollow Farm sold for \$200,000, the second-highest price, also to Charles. The market for Maryland-breds was strong. The momentum was attributed to the stability of a long-term agreement between the state’s horsemen and racetracks plus competitive owner and breeder bonuses.

25 years ago

■ Malibu Moon was to enter stud at 3 at Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md. Owned by Country Life and B. Wayne Hughes, the son of A.P. Indy would stand for \$3,000. He impressed in two juvenile starts at Hollywood Park that spring, but a chip in his left knee ended his career.



Malibu Moon, photographed at age 2, was set to launch his illustrious stud career at Country Life Farm.

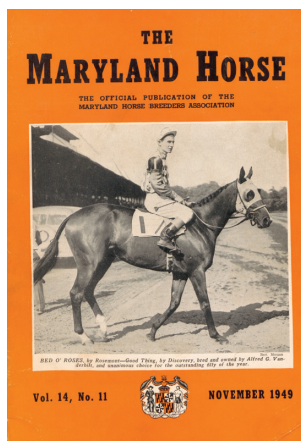
Malibu Moon stood four seasons at Country Life before moving to Kentucky in 2004. He sired more than 150 stakes winners, including 2013 Kentucky Derby winner Orb and 2004 juvenile champion Declan’s Moon, before his death in 2021.

■ The National Sporting Library celebrated the grand opening of its new, 15,000-square-foot home in Middleburg, Va. The library was founded as a non-profit in 1954 by George L. Ohrstrom Sr. and Alexander Mackay-Smith, and George L. Ohrstrom Jr. became its chairman upon his father’s passing the following year. Mackay-Smith served as curator until his death in 1998. Former *Maryland Horse* contributor Peter Winants was a director emeritus.

■ Fasig-Tipton’s eastern fall yearling sale, held over three days at Timonium with a

catalog of 750 horses, grossed \$9,849,700, surpassing the previous year’s figure by \$1.8 million (23 percent). The average price rose 2 percent to \$18,848. The \$320,000 sales-topper, a son of Lord Carson, set a Timonium record for a colt.

■ Northview Stallion Station’s sire Two Punch and jockey Rick Wilson each had three winners on a festive Maryland Million Day at Laurel Park. Attendance topped 24,000 for the fourth time and handle reached a record \$6,120,409. Linda Albert-trained Perfect to a Tee (by Parfaitement) won the Classic, while trainer Leah Gyarmati and jockey Diane Nelson scored in the Distaff with New York-based Flippy Diane, a daughter of Aaron’s Concorde.



75 years ago

■ Alfred G. Vanderbilt's homebred Bed o' Roses was the unanimous choice as the nation's outstanding 2-year-old filly after winning seven stakes and placing in four others. The biographical details of the California-bred, Maryland-raised daughter of Rosemont—Good Thing, by Discovery, were provided by Sagamore Farm manager Ralph Kercheval: "Bed o' Roses was conceived at Walnut Hall Farm, Boyce, Va. Her dam was shipped to California in November 1946. Bed o' Roses was foaled at the L.B. Mayer Farm, Perris, Calif., April 8, 1947. Her dam was bred to *Alibhai at the Mayer Farm, and both mare and foal were shipped to Kentucky during September 1947. [She] was weaned and shipped to Sagamore from Kentucky, September 1947."

The filly was wintering at home after making 21 starts. Kercheval called her

ability to travel a strength. From February through November, Bed o' Roses raced at Santa Anita, Jamaica, Belmont Park, Garden State Park, Delaware Park, Aqueduct Racetrack, Monmouth Park, Arlington Park, Detroit Race Course, Saratoga Race Course, Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course. She made four starts each in May and October.

The future Hall of Famer, who raced a total of 46 times, winning 18, was also named champion older mare in 1951.

■ Saggy – "Conqueror of Citation at 3" – was to stand the 1950 season for \$300 at Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md. Owned by Helen Sagner, the multiple stakes winner and world record-holder for 4½ furlongs (:51½) won eight of 14 starts, and placed in four others. The son of Swing and Sway and the Hyperion mare Chantress defeated Citation in Havre de Grace's Chesapeake Trial in spring 1948.

■ Greentree Stable's Capot, one of the better 3-year-olds of 1949, defeated Calumet Farm's year-old runner Coaltown in the Pimlico Special. It was Capot's second win over the Bull Lea-sired colt, considered likely to take Horse of the Year honors.

Winner of the Preakness and Belmont that year, Capot earned not only 3-year-old honors, but Horse of the Year as well.

■ The industry mourned the loss of Maryland Horse Breeders Association president Henry L. Strauss, killed in a private plane crash near Port Deposit, Md.

Educated at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, the inventor of the American Totalisator (described as "one of the greatest contributions to racing in modern times"), was also president of Tropical Park race course in Coral Gables, Fla. He was not only well-known wherever racing was conducted, he was well-liked. "From racetrack executives, down through officials and employees of all types; mutuel clerks, horsemen, stable employees, the press and to the ordinary run of fans, Straus was popular."

Upon Straus' passing, a dispersal of his Worthington Farm scheduled for the Timonium Fair Grounds. Among the stock listed were the half-brother stallions New Moon (Discovery) and Quarter Moon (*Quatre Bras II).

MHBA vice president John P. Pons was elected to fill the vacancy of president.

■ The annual meeting of the American Trainers Association was held in Pimlico's Old Club House with president Max Hirsch presiding. Three resolutions were presented and approved after discussion. The ATA was firmly against night racing as well as "Off Course" betting, and that it was "vigorously and firmly opposed to any legislation that would deprive The Jockey Club of its vested authority," something being considered in the coming New York state legislative session.

50 years ago

■ After decades of moderate success, Pittsburgh Steelers owner and life-long racing devotee Art Rooney had a genuine star in his stable. Homebred Christopher R., named for one of Rooney's grandsons, won back-to-back stakes that fall and ranked at the top of the Maryland-bred 3-year-old crop. The son of Loom out of Rita Marie was born on Rooney's 420-acre Shamrock Farm, also home to Standardbreds and Black Angus cattle.

■ Dr. Robert G. Lawrence completed a four-phase study at the University of Maryland focusing on the economics of

Maryland's racing industry. Total cash flow generated by racing for 1970 was \$163 million, with \$14 million going to the state in pari-mutuel taxes. An estimated \$29.6 million was paid in salaries, "almost the size of the entire payroll of the firms manufacturing furniture and fixtures in the state."

In terms of attendance, "Maryland horse racing in 1970 drew 80 percent of the combined home crowds that year of the Colts, Bullets, Orioles, Redskins, Senators and the University of Maryland football and basketball teams." Lawrence also noted: "While racing is decidedly a winning proposition for the state," the situation is

much more precarious for the horsemen. "... the aggregate racing income of owners continues to be less than aggregate expenses."

■ Editor Snowden Carter opined that the best horse in the 1974 Washington, D.C., International did not win. Ridden by England's Lester Piggot, Nelson Bunker Hunt's Dahlia finished third behind *Admetus and Desert Vixen. According to Carter, Piggot had planned on a replay of his Canadian International strategy – coming from far back with a big run. The strategy didn't work this time. According to Carter: "Dahlia wasn't beaten. She was victimized."

— Past Time —



And they're off.

In a 1970 starting-gate lesson at Marlboro Racetrack, a riderless Cornish Sue breaks alongside a workmate while prepping for her debut. The 2-year-old filly misbehaved so badly in the gate with a rider that starter Eddie Blind asked owner Tom May (right) about trying this unorthodox strategy. Three times, including this one in company, Cornish Sue broke without incident and was caught by an outrider afterward. She received her gate card and went on to race.

Walter M. "Skip" Ball was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s. His children donated his work to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association several years ago, and the photographs are part of the Maryland Horse Library as the Skip Ball Collection. In the next stages of our archiving projects, Ball's films and slides have been digitized to preserve this gifted photographer's legacy.

SUCCESS ON THE TRACK... MARYLAND MILLION DAY FOUR WINNERS/FIVE PLACED



Classic S. - 1ST GREAT NOTION's Brilliant Ice
Homebred for Phil Bratz' Crystal Park Stables;
Trainer: Annette Eubanks

*** It is GREAT NOTION's 22nd Maryland Million win and 15th consecutive year to been represented with a least one winner*

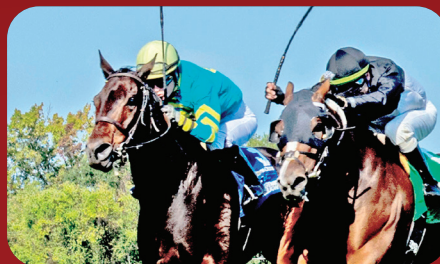


Sprint S. - 1ST IRISH WAR CRY's Celtic Contender

Breeder: Fred T. Lewis, DVM; Owner: Lewis Family Racing
Stables; Trainer: Hamilton Smith



Nursery S. - 1ST UNCLE LINO's Do It for Michael
Homebred for No Guts No Glory Farm; Trainer: John Robb



Turf S. - 1ST GREAT NOTION's Starstruck Notion
Homebred for Kenneth Garcia; Trainer: Pat McBurney



AND THE SALES RING... FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC FALL

\$115,000

ENGAGE-Stickingtogether filly
Sold to Cash is King, LLC

▼ **Highest Price in the Sale for a
Yearling by a First Year Sire or
by Any Sire Outside of KY**

ALSO:

Turf Sprint S.
2ND **GREAT NOTION's** Great Idea

Distaff S.
2ND **MADEFROMLUCKY's** Sheilahs Warcloud,
3RD **IRISH WAR CRY's** Spencerian

Nursery S.
2ND **HOPPERTUNITY's** Re Markably

Sprint S.
2ND **BANDBOX's** Band Camp



Photo credit:
Brittlan Wall/BW Visual Studios
Jerry Dzierwinski/Maryland Jockey Club

northviewstallions.com

Linda Bench: 410.885.2855, lbench@northviewstallions.com
Paul O'Loughlin: 443.566.2996 (cell), paul@northviewstallions.com
55 Northern Dancer Drive, Chesapeake City, MD 21915

**ENDORSED • ENGAGE • GALAWI (IRE) • GOLDEN LAD • GREAT NOTION
HOPPERTUNITY • IRISH WAR CRY • MADEFROMLUCKY • UNCLE LINO**



BREEDERS: If you're buying mares, Virginia is the place to send them. With no breed-back rule, there is no better state-bred program.

After purchase, get them to **VIRGINIA** in **15 days**. Foal out here in 2025 and your VA-bred is eligible to earn you breeder bonuses for **1st thru 3rd finishes IN ANY OPEN RACE IN NORTH AMERICA***
2023 Bonuses were paid out at 34% of earned purses

**State-bred and state-sired races excluded except at Colonial Downs and NSA-sanctioned meets in VA*



See VaBred.org for program details or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716